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Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



Message from the President by Jack Arterburn

The start of dove season is always the first indication for me that fall is around the corner. Now the leaves are changing color, preg checking, preconditioning, weaning, and harvest are ramping up, and I start the day with several layers and shed them all throughout the day and sometimes still build a sweat in the afternoon. Fall is certainly in the air.

This is an exciting time of year. Everyone enjoys the reprieve from hot temperatures and the culmination of the year's efforts at weaning and harvest. Football is finally back and hunting seasons are beginning to open. Not long and the snow will be flying, and we will be gathering around Thanksgiving tables and Christ-

mas trees.

Our rangelands have endured a second consecutive year of drought and although some destocking has occurred, calves in my area have remained quite healthy and are looking favorable, as are pregnancy rates. However, we are not out of the throes of drought. I follow the forecasts from Nutrien Ag Solutions' Eric Snodgrass. He is seeing a similar winter pattern as last year which was quite open, although we did get a heavy, wet snow in March to set rangelands up well at the beginning of the growing season.

The concern is the developing La Nina which signals drier and warmer than normal temperatures for Nebraska. However,

Snodgrass believe the La Nina will peak earlier than last year. This and the impacts will remain to be seen. I feel my clientele have weathered the last two years of drought well, but a third consecutive year would be a challenge. Most producers I talk to shrug off drought and have accepted it as part of the business. They have learned not to let drought manage them, but to manage drought by improving grazing practices to build grassland health and resilience and keeping a supply of hay.

It was great seeing everyone virtually at our Annual Meeting and hopeful we will be able to connect in person soon.

Jack

Historian's Report by Jeff Nichols

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

Five Years Ago (2016)

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

Stephenson were Council members.

The 53rd annual Nebraska Youth range Camp was held June 6th - 10th at the Nebraska State

4-H Camp near Halsey. There were 32 campers. The overall top camper was Jaythan Scheideler. The top first year camper was Henry Scheideler.

The 61st year of range judging in Nebraska was completed with 1285 student participating in the area contests and 427 contestants in the state contest.

The annual Nebraska Section meeting was held at Gothenburg, NE on October 12-14th. The theme for the meeting was

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



Curly cup gumweed

This plant project started this spring with the first wildflower of the year, the pasque flower and here we are today looking at one of the latest blooming wildflowers in the state – curly cup gumweed.

Curly cup gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa*) is distinctive due to the stickiness of the plant. The leaves are dotted with tiny, dark, sessile, resinous glands which give the leaves a shiny appearance. The leaf margins either have many, close serrations which are rounded and gland tipped or mostly entire but with a few acute teeth near the tip of the leaf.

The flower heads are may be numerous and are terminal on the stem. The bracts overlap, are sticky, and the tips turn outward. The individual flowers contain 12-37 ray florets which are yellow, and the disk florets are numerous and a dark yellow.

Curly cup gumweed blooms in July through October and in areas where heat is retained like gravelly roadsides or along trails it can bloom into November. Curly cup gumweed is found statewide in disturbed areas such as roadsides, fields and in pastures. It is found in the Sandhills, but not usually on the dunes.

Meet our new Nebraska Section Advisory Council Member **Kyle Schumacher**

I obtained my bachelor's degrees at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Fisheries & Wildlife and Grassland Ecology & Management. I then obtained my master's degree in biology at Fort Hays State University where I studied grassland bird habitat preferences at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. I am now a coordinating wildlife biologist for Northern Prairies Land Trust and Nebraska Game & Parks Commission. I work with private landowners and partnering agencies to deliver habitat improvement programs for rangelands in the Verdigris Creek and Bazile Creek watersheds in northeast Nebraska. I have been a member of SRM since 2013 when I became a member of the UNL Range Club. My involvement quickly moved from getting a couple free meals of pizza as a hungry college student to obtaining a desire to learn and work in rangelands across the Great Plains.

As a student I competed in URME, plant ID, and research presentations. While at FHSU, I worked with my lab to begin sending students and faculty from the university back to SRM's annual meeting. At the section level, I have been a member of the Nebraska and Kansas

sections as my travels have unfolded. At the parent level, I have been a member of the Wildlife Habitat Committee and currently serve as chairperson for that committee. Within that role, I have been working with SRM's Board of Directors and Executive Vice President to expand relations between SRM and The Wildlife Society and to get SRM a seat at the table with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Also as a member of the Young Professionals Conclave, I am the group's liaison to the Nebraska Section and hope to continue to expand young professional involvement in Nebraska over the next few years.

I think the biggest strength of the Nebraska Section is the number of quality mentors looking to pass on their passion for Nebraska's rangelands to new members. We should continue to capitalize on this strength by finding ways to expand membership of young professionals, students, and young producers. With that, I have three goals for Nebraska Section if I were to be elected to advisory council:

- Increase fundraising efforts and sponsorship for the Nebraska Section and the annual meeting. These funds would be used to keep meeting costs down and expand financial support for travel expenses and support other section activities through the year.
- Increase young professional membership and involvement by establishing a scholarship for travel related expenses to SRM's annual meeting, establishing a scholarship for a young producer to attend the Nebraska Section meeting, and establish an YPC liaison from the section level.
- Produce a list of policy and position statements similar to the parent society's list to increase state level influence in policy decisions and legislation that locally affect our rangelands.

With that, I would be honored to represent and serve the Nebraska Section on advisory council and thank you for your consideration.

Kyle Schumacher

Historian's Report Continued...

"Capitalizing on Range Management Opportunities". There were over 100 in attendance at the technical session and 50 people attended the tour of the Sundstrom ranch south of Brady.

Ten Years Ago (2011)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Michael Croxen, President; Doug Whisenhunt, Past President; Curtis Talbot, President Elect; Leslie Stewart-Phelps, Secretary/Treasurer; Shelly Taylor (Kelly), Newsletter Editor; Nick Simonson and Cindy Tusler were Council Members.

The 48th annual Nebraska Range Youth Camp was held June 13th - 17th at the Nebraska 4-H Camp near Halsey, NE. There were 38 high school students from across Nebraska and one from eastern Colorado who attended this weeklong educational activity. The overall top camper was Johnny Ference of Ord. The top first year camper was Reid Stagemeyer from Cambridge.

Jess Milby and Laura Snell, two UNL students, traveled to Windhoek, Namibia to assist UNL Professor, Walt Schacht with research and do mission work. Snell said of her trip; "It was an exhilarating experience that really opened up my eyes to a different part of the world. It was wonderful to help others while conducting research and visiting a new place."

The State Range Judging Contest was held in the Sidney area on October 4th. The champion individual judger was Taylor Hornickel of Ord. The champion team was Dusty Staab, Cody Drudik, Johnny Ference and Taylor Hornickel, all from Ord. There were nearly 360 participants.

The annual NE-Section meeting followed on October 5th and 6th, also at Sidney. The theme for the meeting was "Understanding Past Management and what it Means Today". The Nebraska Section SRM Rangeman's award was presented to the Darby Creek Ranch of Sidney. The ranch is owned and operated by Norma, Tom, and Todd Johnson. The NE -Section Range Service Award was presented to Leslie Stewart-Phelps. She served as the Secretary-Treasurer for the section for many years and had recently retired to dedicate her efforts, along with her hus-

band Bill, to their small operation south of Crawford, NE.

Twenty Years Ago (2001)

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

The leafy spurge task force annual tour and conference was held August 1st and 2nd at Ainsworth and the Nebraska Grazing Conference was held in Kearney August 13th and 14th.

The U.S. Postal Service released the "Great Plains Prairie" stamp as part of the "Nature of America" stamp series. The stamp depicts 25 animal and plant species native to the mixed-grass prairie of the American Great Plains.

The 38th annual Range Youth Camp was held June 25-29 at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp near Halsey, NE. The overall top camper and top first year camper was Tim Roggach from Rose, NE. The top returning camper was Janette Davidson from Lamar.

Thirty Years Ago (1991)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Cort Dewing, President; Jack Maddux, Past President; Catherine Mills, President Elect; Daryl Cisney, Secretary -Treasurer; Mary Schrader, Newsletter Editor; James O'Rourke and Sheila Valasek (Luoma) were council members.

The 1991 SRM summer meeting was held July 12-16 at North Platte. The meeting was very successful, both in terms of attendance and profit for SRM. There were 256 people in attendance. The only other time a summer meeting was held in Nebraska was 1963.

The 28th annual Range Youth Camp was held near Halsey, where 32 campers participated. Jeff Bruns of Crawford was the top returning camper, Adam Olson of Sargent was the top first year camper, and Adam Smith of Sargent was the runner-up first year camper.

Producers from all over southwest Nebraska attended the Rangeman's Holiday at Larges

G4 Ranch south of Hayes Center on July 26th. There were 48 people in attendance to learn about range management principles

Forty Years Ago (1981)

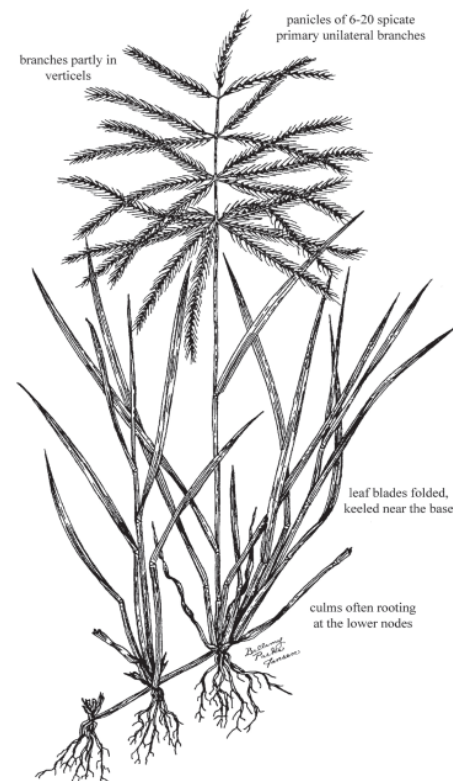
The Nebraska Section Officers were: Jim Emal, President; James T. Nichols, Past President; James Stubbendieck, President Elect; Lowell Moser, Secretary/Treasurer; Steve Waller, Newsletter Editor; Dan Bose and Irene Graves were Council Members.

Dr. Terry Klopfenstein and Dr. James T. Nichols received Livestock Service Awards from Walnut Grove Products of Atlantic, Iowa.

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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.



Historian's Report Continued...

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents accepted the gift of a 12,817-acre ranch near Whitman, NE from Mr. and Mrs. Elmer "Pete" Gudmundsen. The dedication was held June 26, 1981 and the ranch will be known as the "Gudmundsen Sandhills Research Center".

The 18th annual Range Youth Camp was held June 8-12 with 38 campers in attendance. The top campers were Mick Groskopf of Mitchell, Mary Raymer (Reece) of Stuart, and Valerie Starr of Mullen.

The Nebraska Section sponsored a tour of the General Agricultural Services, LTD lands in Nuckolls County. There were 45 people in attendance. John Long and Don Cacek hosted the tour and showed range management improvements made on the Scully lands.

The first annual Nebraska Prairie Appreciation Week was observed in September with Ruth Thone, the Governor's wife, serving as the Honorary Chair.

Fifty Years Ago (1971)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Bob Hill, President; Harlan DeGarmo, Past President; Ray Sall, President-Elect; Ken Noonan, Secretary Treasurer; Jim Nichols and Don Cox, Newsletter Editors; and Ken Weyers and Bob Bobek were councilmen.

The official name of the society was changed from the American Society of Range Management to the Society for Range Management.

The Nebraska Section had 91 members, with six being students.

Sixty Years Ago (1961)

Kermit Paxton of Stapleton reported on sandy upland prairie meadows. He put up only eight bales of hay per acre when mowed every year as opposed to 20 bales per acre when cut every other year.

A Range and Livestock Day and Tour was held at Mullen on June 9th. The morning program consisted of talks by Don Burzlaff, UNL Range Specialist, and Bud Hunt, Denver Livestock Exchange. There was a tour of two ranches to observe range interseedings in the afternoon.



"It's come to my attention that some of you are cows."



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.