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Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



Message from the President by Brad Schick

Greetings everyone!

To say it's been a tense spring would be an understatement. Although weather for calving was ideal or better than ideal in most areas of the state, the suppressing winds and drastic changes in temperature have been difficult for many. With cooler temperatures overall, a lack of moisture in the early spring, and lower than typical soil moisture, growth on pastures have been limited. However, with all that being said, the rains that have blessed the ground the past several weeks have changed the perspective of pasture managers. Personally, I have had many conversations and set

up contingency plans for producers which have included some drylotting options for the summer, turning out half of the cows, and weaning early if necessary. The sale of cull cows has increased significantly this year and luckily for those selling, the price has been very solid. Another positive is that if livestock has to be sold due to drought, the tax implications can be postponed for two years if livestock are purchased again within that timeframe. Be sure to discuss these options with a professional accountant. I hope that this recent trend of rains continues into the summer months and these forages can reach close to full

growth potential.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all of you who are working on the Nebraska Youth Range Camp. It sounds like it is coming together nicely once again this year. The planning for the fall meeting is also moving forward for an in-person meeting! We can only hope that we are once again able to see our friends and colleagues at our fall meeting. Thank you to all who support our Nebraska Section!

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 70th annual International meeting for the Society for Range Management were held at St. George, Utah. The Nebraska Section was well represented, and

several members were recognized with awards. Jerry Volesky, Extension Range Specialist with the University of Nebraska West Central Research and Extension Center at North Platte was presented with the prestigious SRM Fellow Award. Jerry was the tenth member to receive that award over the history of the NE Section. Nadine Bishop, NRCS State Range Management Specialist (retired), of Imperial was presented the "NRCS Rangeland Conservationist of the Year" award. Anthony Perlinski, Range instructor from Chadron State College was elected the Chair-elect of the Advisory Council for SRM. Cade Francis of Imperial won fifth place in the High School Youth Forum presen-

tations. Kacey VanWinkle of Palmer was elected the HSYF president for the 2017-18 year.

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 Bob Broweleit were Council Members.

The International meetings for the Society for Range Management was held at Spokane, WA

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Springtime & SRM Membership *by Lance Schutte, Membership Committee Chair*

Spring has finally sprung here in south central Nebraska, although it seems to have arrived a few weeks later than most of the local farmers would have liked. As for us in the livestock realm, we have experienced a drought that could not have come at a better time, during calving season. We have had one of the most successful calving seasons ever and much of that success can be attributed to the drier than normal conditions that we experienced. However, this came at a great loss to many of our friends in neighboring counties. I am sure that everyone will echo my deepest sympathies for those in Furnas and Red Willow counties for enduring weeks of wildfires and all the losses they have encountered. I am hopeful that everyone affected by the devastating wildfires will persevere and come back from this experience stronger than ever.

Springtime is a time of new life with new grass growth and new baby calves and lambs running around. I can't put my finger on it, but every spring I always find myself reflecting and assessing the past year. We have made great strides in overcoming a global pandemic and I am sure that we are all hopeful that we

will see the final throes of it in coming months and we can get back to normal. Because of the improvements in the pandemic, SRM was able to have its first ever hybrid Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico where participants could join virtually or in person. I heard that the Annual Meeting was a great success, although I was not able to attend this year. The Nebraska section meeting was held virtually in October and seems to have been a successful meeting.

What I have really reflected upon recently has been our section membership status and what has been coming from the Parent Society membership committee. The Nebraska Section numbers are down slightly from last year. However, there are several of our more active members that have not yet renewed their membership which expired January 1, 2022. I urge all of you to login and check your SRM membership status. I also urge all of you to please update your email addresses when you renew your SRM membership, which will help all of us with better communications. Hopefully all of you have heard about, and became a member of, a new project effort from the Parent Society membership commit-

tee called "Good Grazing Makes Cent\$." This is a project that is intended to bridge the gap between livestock producer groups, such as National Cattleman's Beef Association, and the SRM by providing practical and applicable range management solutions through conversation and collaboration between range scientists and ranchers. Anyone can join by going to goodgrazing.org. I really hope that you all will consider becoming a part of this effort.

Reflection of past events seems to lead to looking forward to what is to come and our hopes for the future. I hope that everyone affected by the wildfires will persevere and will be able to rebuild what they have lost. I also hope that we will all get to see each other in person and not through a computer screen and that we can get back to a semblance of what we once considered normal. And I hope that we all experience timely moisture, good grass growth, healthy livestock, good conception rates, and fat calves this fall.

Lance

CSC Team Wins Rangeland Cup at International Conference

by Tena L. Cook, Marketing Coordinator

CHADRON - A team of Chadron State College students placed first in the Rangeland Cup competition at the International Society for Range Management (SRM) meeting in Albuquerque Feb. 6-10. They are Emma Pendleton of Hemingford, Nebraska, Brolin Morgan of McCook, Nebraska, and Hayden and Sage McGinnis of Buena Vista, Colorado. CSC competed against six other teams. CSC won the competition once before in 2009. Chadron State College Associate Professor Dr. Anthony Perlinski said the problem-solving competition is designed to promote critical thinking and collaborative work on current topics or topics of historical importance to rangeland ecology and management.

Perlinski said the students were given the topic before the semester break so they had a couple of months to do their research and create their poster and presentation. Perlinski said he felt this year's topic was particularly

challenging.

"As we progress in our careers, much of our work is performed as part of a group. The Rangeland Cup competition is intended to build skills in interpersonal communication and group-problem solving, both of which are highly desired qualities in the workplace," Perlinski said. "I was really proud of the way all of our students performed. We took a few experienced students, but for the majority, this was their first SRM meeting and student competition. It's great they have the Rangeland Cup back home and we have a motivated group of students excited for next year."

In addition to the four students on the winning team, seven other CSC students attended the meeting and participated in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam that consists of plant identification and extemporaneous speaking. The students are Camryn Klein



Chadron State College team members pose with the Rangeland Cup, from left, Brolin Morgan of McCook, Neb., Emma Pendleton of Hemingford, Neb., Sage McGinnis of Buena Vista, Colo., Society for Range Management President Dr. Poncho Ortega, and Hayden McGinnis of Buena Vista, Colo., Feb. 9, 2022, in Albuquerque. (Courtesy photo)

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2022 Annual Meeting

O'Neill NE, October 19-20

- Information on venue, agenda and lodging forthcoming.

Topic Focus: Fighting cedar encroachment through system planning and interagency collaboration.

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



Fremont's Leather Flower

Fremont's Leather Flower, (*Clematis fremontii*) was named after Gen. John C. Frémont, who was a first cataloged this plant in the 1840s. This plant is also known as Fremont's clematis, Fremont's leather-plant, and rattleweed due to the noise the dried plant makes in the wind. This plant is a member of the Buttercup (Ranunculaceae) Family.

While most clematis are climbers, Fremont's Leather-flower is a non-climbing, almost shrubby plant. The leaves are broad, ovate to elliptic, and leathery with cobweb-like hairs on the underside. The upper side of the leaf is dark green while the underside is a grayish

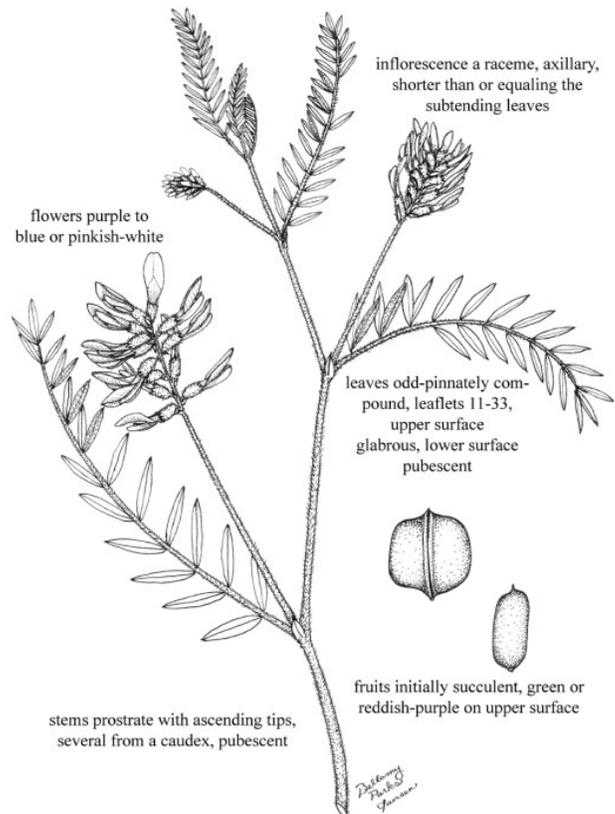
green. Leaves are up to 5 inches long, parallel veined, rough to the touch, and sessile, on erect stems that are 12 to 18 inches tall.

The solitary flowers have thick, non-spreading, often recurved sepals which are thick and leathery and form a solitary bell or urn-shaped flower which nods on a slender stalk. Flower color ranges from white to blue to purple to white. The seed head is a cluster of beaked and recurved achenes which resembles a spiky ball. The achenes and foliage turn brown in the fall and persist into the winter. In Nebraska, Fremont's leather-flower blooms in April through June.

The plant occurs on rocky prairie sites such as Fort Hays Limestone and Smoky Hill Chalk. Fremont's leather flower is only found in north-central Kansas, south-central Nebraska, and the eastern Ozark region of Missouri. The plants in Missouri are thought to be a different variety from the Nebraska and Kansas plants. In Nebraska, Fremont's leather-flower has been reported in Franklin, Nuckolls, and Webster counties. The plant is rare in the Great Plains, but where found, it can be locally abundant.

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.**



CSC Team Wins Rangeland Cup at International Conference *continued from page 2*

of Highlands Ranch, Colo., Robert Hansen of Camp Crook, S.D., Makennen Havlat of Seward, Neb., Julie Geiman of Rapid City, S.D., Savannah Solon of Kadoka, S.D., Rebekah Pobanz of Grand Island, Neb., and Timothy May of Rapid City, S.D.

CSC's winning presentation dealt with urban expansion and its impact according to Sage McGinnis.

"Winning the award was so satisfying because all of our hard work over the past few months really paid off and we are all very thankful for that. I am so thankful for the experience and to be able to represent ourselves, the Rangeland Management program, and Chadron State College well," Sage McGinnis said.

Morgan said she was impressed with the intelligence of those at the conference.

"Learning and listening to the amount of knowledge the judges and other members have was eye-opening and made me realize how much there is to learn. Ultimately, I think that competing in the Rangeland Cup at SRM really broadened my horizons

in rangeland and made me a better student overall. I want to thank and acknowledge my other team members for their excellent jobs and the immense amount of effort that was put into this presentation," Morgan said.

Pendleton said it was wonderful to take an issue the team felt passionate about and advocate for it on an international level as representatives of CSC.

"I feel honored to be included in a group with the other competitors from various colleges who showed up to the Range Cup to present with equal passion for rangeland and motivation for solving problems to further the future of this field," Pendleton said.

Perlinski said the C.F. Coffee Foundation funded research and the travel expenses for students.



Historian's Report *continued from page 1*

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 4th with her presentation "Hay, It's What's for Dinner" and Cassidy Linabery from Valentine placed 5th 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 Pres-

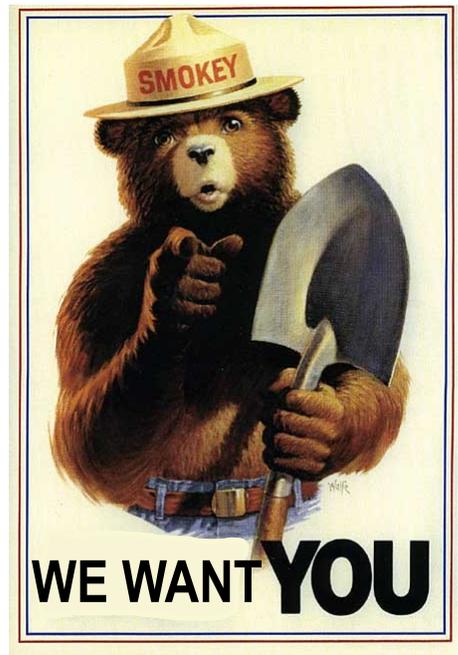
ident; Teri Edeal, President Elect; Bob Sprentall, Secretary/Treasurer; Sherry Connot, Newsletter Editor; Scott Willet and Al Steuter were Council members.

The 55th annual meeting of the Society for Range Management was held in Kansas City from February 14th through the 19th. 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 14th in the URME contest and the team placed tenth.



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.