

# THE PLAINSMAN

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT  
NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS SECTION

APRIL, 2010



## President's Message

*Mike Schellenberg, SRM-NGP President*

This is my first newsletter as your President of the Northern Great Plains section, having begun my term of office at our Section meeting in Denver. I wish to thank Sandra Brown for her hard work during her presidency.

"Change is the only constant" was very evident at the Denver meeting. SRM is trying a new model for the position of executive director by hiring a consultant company, "Western Skies Strategies". Tim Cancelor will be our main contact with the company. A new position/employee, Outreach and Leadership Development Coordinator, was also announced. Aleta Rudeen brings to that position high energy and a willingness to travel.

There is a need for SRM to maintain and expand its membership, and our Section has an opportunity to interact with some "new" range professionals in Manitoba! A group of University of Manitoba students participated in the Denver meeting, and discussion has been initiated on holding our summer Section meeting in that province.

Our Billings Meeting Planning Committee and subcommittees met several times with the Denver Meeting Planning committee. The Billings meeting is coming together but more volunteers are needed, according to Tammy De-cock and Todd Yeager, co-chairs of the event. Please seriously consider helping out. The theme for the Billings meeting will be "Transcending Borders", which was chosen to highlight the dynamics of our Northern Great Plains Section.

The need to transcend borders is the reason I chose to run for Section president, because I feel we need to realize our common interests and issues pertaining to rangelands. Northern Great Plains Section members, old and new, can play a big role in developing a true sense of what our rangelands are. I look forward to my term in office, hoping to move forward in "transcending borders". We are a strong section, one that can attract new members and increase enthusiasm among existing members.

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## Mark your calendars!

**6/14-16 MT Range**

**Days @ Miles City**

**6/15-18 ND Range**

**Camp @ Bowman**

**6/28-7/2 MT Youth**

**Range Camp@Elliston**

**Aug or Sept: Section**

**Mtg @ Manitoba ??**

**9/16-17 ND Ch. Mtg &**

**Tour@ Hettinger**

**Sept or Oct: Old West**

**Reg. Contest @ ND**

"The Plainsman" will be published four times each year. Please submit news items by January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1, to Jan Pratt, [stvi79@gmail.com](mailto:stvi79@gmail.com). Send corrections, too!

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# Minutes:

Northern Great Plains Section Business Meeting  
February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 4 p.m.  
Plaza Court 8, Denver, CO

President Sandra Brown called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. The 40 members present introduced themselves. The minutes of the September 28, 2009 meeting were read. Mike Schellenberg moved and Dean Dolatta seconded to approve the minutes as read. Motion passed. The treasurer's report was presented. Jen Muscha moved all of the Section money out of UBS in Billings and put part of it in a CD and part of it in a Money Market Account with State Farm in Miles City, MT. Bob Patton moved to accept the treasurer's report. Jody Mason seconded. Motion passed. Results of the Fall 2009 elections were President Elect– Lee Voigt, ND, Director– Niki Dahl, ND, and Director– Jody Mason, MT.

Tammy Decock and Todd Yeager, Billings Meeting Planning Committee Co-Chairs, introduced the Sub-Committee Co-Chairs. The Billings 2011 meeting website is up and running on the Parent Society's home-page. Montana Silversmiths is designing a lapel pin for meeting attendees. Articles featuring the Northern Great Plains, to be published in the Rangelands October issue are welcome. Please submit to Paul Nyren by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Committee is looking at doing something similar to the "Taste of Colorado" in Billings. If you are attending the "Taste of Colorado", please give the committee feedback about the event. The Parent Society annual meeting might be in Orlando or Salt Lake City in 2014. A special session regarding grazing animals that can infect wildlife may be held at the Billings meeting or possibly before. We suggest asking a Section to agree to host the meeting rather than just informing them that it will be held in their Section.

The REDD Foundation has given the Parent Society grant money to increase producer participation at the Annual Meetings by paying registration fees for producers accompanied by a professional mentor. The Section is asked to provide \$150 towards the sponsorship. Keith Bartholomay moved and Paul Nyren 2<sup>nd</sup> to have the Section find producers from our area to attend the Billings meeting. The Section Board will decide how many producers to sponsor if applications are made. Motion passed.

Mike Schellenberg discussed the Chicago Carbon Exchange Exam certification offered in Denver for "Certified Professional in Range Management" points. Sandra Brown, Keith Bartholomay and Mike Schellenberg reported from the Advisory Council meetings that three new employees have been hired by the Parent Society: Jess Peterson, Washington, DC Liaison; Tim Cansler, EVP; and Aleta Rudeen, Outreach and Leadership Development Coordinator

We currently have no Membership Committee, but we do have about 215 members in our section. Past Nominating Committee Chair Keith Bartholomay thanked those who ran for vacant offices. Jody Mason is the new Chair for the Student Activities Committee. We did not have a High School Youth Forum delegate from NGP Section. Montana Range Days will be held in Miles City June 14-16<sup>th</sup>, the North Dakota Range Camp will be held June 15-18<sup>th</sup>, and Old West Regional Range Judging will rotate to ND in 2011. OWR was held in Glendive, MT in 2009, where Nebraska won the contest.

Mike Schellenberg, Prairie Parkland Chapter, said they would like to have our Section meeting in Manitoba in August or September. Jack Dahl, North Dakota Chapter, reported that approximately 40 people attended their meeting in September in Bismarck. The Section presented a Rancher Award from the Chapter. Their meetings are usually the third week of September. The Chapter President is Amanda Gearheart, President Elect Corie Lund. Jan Pratt is our new Newsletter Editor, and Amy Ganguli is our new webmaster. Paul Nyren moved to adjourn the meeting, Jeff Printz 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*Jen Muscha, Secretary*

## Plans for Billings Meeting Well Under Way

In case you haven't heard, the Northern Great Plains Section will host the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Society for Range Management Meetings in Billings, Montana, February 6-11, 2011. Stay up-to date with our Billings meeting website linked to the SRM homepage, or at <http://www.rangelands.org/billings2011/>. We will need lots of volunteer help during the actual meeting, so please sign up! Thanks to those of you who have already volunteered. The Holiday Inn Grand and Billings Hotel and Convention Center are the host hotels.

Related deadlines are: May 1 - symposia submissions and a fairly accurate budget; May 15 - articles highlighting our Northern Great Plains region, for the October Rangelands (submit to Paul Nyren); June 1 - Pre-convention Trail Boss schedule of planned activities; and August 1 - information to the printers for the Pre-convention Trail Boss.

Committees are still working on an all day Rancher's Forum targeted for Producers on Tuesday, and possible tours of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range, Little Bighorn Battlefield, and Pompey's Pillar. The Moss Mansion and trips to shopping and the downtown area are a few of the potential day tours in Billings. "Bucky Beaver and the Groundgridders" is the band contracted for the dance Tuesday night. We are also planning an alternative banquet function with a western-themed meal and the Ringling Five as entertainment for Wednesday night. Our hope is to create an enjoyable experience for all participants and also highlight the Northern Great Plains Section!

## Outstanding Young Range Professional - Dr. Amy Ganguli

In nearly everything she does, Dr. Amy Ganguli demonstrates a deep and passionate love for rangeland ecosystems, their management, and the people who make their living on these lands, which inspires the many rangeland scientists and managers who have worked with her across multiple states and ecosystems. Amy's work in ecosystem processes and modeling of their parameters, use of non-destructive methods for estimating standing crop in several rangeland regions, and use of NRCS ecological sites has added greatly to our body of knowledge. More recently, Amy's research focused on post wildfire restoration and its influences on chemical and physical soil properties. She is currently an Assistant Professor at NDSU.

Amy has served as a member of the Executive Vice President Search Committee, chair of the Nominating Committee, chair of the Website Task Force and chair of the Information and Education Committee. She continues as co-chair of the Graduate Student Competition Committee and a member of the Membership Task Force and the Website Committee for the 2011 Annual Meeting. Amy's contributions to rangeland science and her extraordinary service to the society make her a worthy recipient of the SRM Outstanding Young Range Professional Award.

## *Prairie Winds* Editorial by Jan Pratt

A principle in creating artwork is to place side-facing human or animal figures on the piece so that they (visually) have "somewhere to go". I was reminded of this concept as I prepared this newsletter, and my last thought one night before going to sleep was "I should flip the Trailboss around on the newsletter banner, so that the guy on the horse is looking in toward us, this great Section, and presumably down, that he might see all the wonderful things shared in the newsletter." First thing the next morning I tried it the new way, to conform to the rule. I didn't like it.

As I studied Charlie Russell's contribution to SRM, I realized the cowboy on the horse (Dr. Kirby?) must have been reflecting... pondering... wondering... hoping.

...reflecting on the strange and wonderful range he had seen on his travels

...pondering the vast array of plants, animals, rocks, soil, and weather that made up the "life" before him

...wondering how this scene would change in the years to come

...and hoping that future peoples would make wise choices in managing this land.

In the end, I left the Trailboss looking out, as if he might just ride off the page. A silent session like his, before getting back to work, might help us, his future people. Then, we should "ride off the page", that is-- forward. Before I leave Charlie's guy behind, I'd like to ask him one question. "How're we doing?"

**NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS SECTION**  
**Society for Range Management**  
**1-25-09 to 1/31/10**

**Current Balances:** Checking               \$ 2,078.58  
                           CD (State Farm)   \$ 9,121.65 @ 2.32%  
                           Money Mkt (SF)   \$10,086.35 @ 1.15%

Total                               **\$21,286.58**

<b>1/25/09</b>	Balance	\$20,938.72
	CD	\$15,000.00
	Working Balance	\$ 5,615.50
Income		
	CD & Money Market Interest	\$ 756.08
	Dues Rebate	\$ 855.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$ 1,611.08</b>
Expenses		
	Incorporation Fee	\$ 15.00
	Newsletter, Ballot, Stamps	\$ 20.32
	MT Range Camp	\$ 100.00
	MT Range Days	\$ 125.00
	Scholarships (NDSU, MSU)	\$ 400.00
	HSYF	\$ 300.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 960.32</b>
<b>1/31/10</b>		
Total Balance		\$21,286.58
	CD	\$ 9,121.65
	Working Balance	\$12,164.93

**Endowment Fund Balance:** 12/31/08   \$2,323.22  
   1/31/10   \$2,339.82

**Section Awards:**  
 Applications are due  
 7/15 to [khaile@mt.gov](mailto:khaile@mt.gov)

*"Outstanding  
 Achievement"  
 (NGP member)*



*"Outstanding  
 Young Range  
 Professional"  
 (NGP member  
 under 35)*



*"Excellence in  
 Grazing  
 Management"  
 (any area producer)*

**Billings Meeting  
 Co-Chairs**

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***In the News:***

**Dr. Bret Olson** was awarded a grant to draft "Best Management Practices" for the Grant Kohrs Historic Site in Deer Lodge. His job is to assess whether cows trained on the ranch to "graze weeds" in 2004 (and their offspring since) consume more weeds than untrained cows and their offspring. For more information on the latter, go to [livestockforlandscapes.com](http://livestockforlandscapes.com)



## ***Spring Greetings from Prairie County***—Terry, Montana...

...home to the mighty Yellowstone River, spectacular badlands and vast grazing lands. It is shaping up to be a great spring, I hope it is for you folks also! I want to share with you details of the great tour and meeting our Section had last fall in Eastern Montana.

On September 29, 2009 the NGP Section met to tour Cherry Creek Ranch north of Terry. Rancher Lon Reukauf showed us 40 year old range exclosures and discussed his ranch management techniques. After a sack lunch, we traveled to a prescribed burn of a red threeawn (*Aristida longiseta*) area. Jesse Henkins, Bureau of Land Management, and Dr. Lance Vermiere, Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory, explained how burning can help control threeawn.

A Section meeting was held that evening at the Airport Inn in Miles City, and the next day, September 30, we were guests at Fort Keogh. Dr. Mark Petersen, new Fort Keogh Research Leader, led a tour of the Fort and discussed its history, telling how it went from an army cavalry post to a cutting edge research center. Other speakers included: Dr. Kurt Reinhart, "Managing Soil Health"; Dr. Richard Waterman, "Effects of Early Weaning on Heifer Development"; Dr. Mark Petersen, "Water Quality Research on Fort Keogh Water Sources"; Dr. David Branson, "Grasshoppers on Rangeland"; and Dr. Andy Roberts, "Feeding Efficiency and Longevity Effects During Heifer Development". Both days were informative and thought provoking as proved by the many positive comments of the attendees.

The NGP Section met February 9, 2010 at the Annual Meeting of the SRM. The networking and professional development opportunities were outstanding, as was meeting old friends and new. The Denver Planning Committee did a great job! Be sure to put Billings 2011 on your radar, as it is shaping up to be a great meeting also. I am now the "Past President" of the Section—thanks to everyone who participated this past year to make it a success. It was an honor to serve as your 2009 President!

## ***Congratulations***

### **Gerald A. Sharpe Memorial Scholarship Winners**



Kailee Bickford - Senior Range Student at Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

David Hagberg - Senior Range Student at North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND

## **ND Chapter Tour**

The 2010 North Dakota Chapter tour is tentatively scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup> in Hettinger, ND. This year's tour will include Ben Geaumont, Hettinger Research and Extension Center's Post-Doctorate Research Fellow, talking about some of his rangeland/wildlife research. Jeff Printz, ND Natural Resources Conservation Service's State Rangeland Specialist, will also be giving a hands-on lesson on interpreting indicators of rangeland health.

The Chapter business meeting will be held the night of September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Hettinger Research and Extension Center Conference Room. A block of rooms will be reserved at the Mirror Lake Lodge in Hettinger (701-567-4571). More information will be sent out at a later date. Everyone is invited to attend, including our South Dakota, Montana, and Canadian neighbors. You're welcome to contact me at [corie.lund@nd.usda.gov](mailto:corie.lund@nd.usda.gov).

## **Happenings on the Montana Side-**

Rebecca Wolenetz, the Dawson County Conservation District, and a great crew of volunteers put on the Old West Regional Range Judging Contest in Glendive last October 3 & 4. Attendance was not as good as had been hoped, but the training opportunity was exceptional. A Nebraska team won top honors! The event will be held in North Dakota this fall.

Montana Range Days was held in Miles City June 14-16, 2009. Approximately 350 people attended the event including 93 elementary youth, 83 high school youth, 81 adults, and 93 volunteer staff members. Most attended as families or school groups. These people came from as far away as Worland, Wyoming (their team took top honors!), Sheridan, Conrad, Turner, and Alzada, Montana. Many attendees camped in tents and campers at our Headquarters, Eastern Montana Fairgrounds. Workshops and contests were held on Fort Keogh, and three tours were offered: Range Ecosystems, Fort Keogh LARRL, and Sage Grouse. Montana Range Days is 34 years old this year, and it is still educational and FUN! The 3-day event will be held in Miles City again June 14-16, 2010. Details can be found at [montanarangeday.org](http://montanarangeday.org). Ya'll come!

Montana Youth Range Camp will be held June 28-July 2 near Elliston, Montana.

## **Prairie-Parkland Chapter Notes-**

Manitoba may join us! (See President Mike Schellenberg's report, page 1) AND the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Manitoba are on a roll—see page 9.

Our officers are: President-Daryl Nazar; Past President-Chris Nykoluk; Vice President-Jeff Thorpe; Sec-Treasurer-Trevor Lennox; Youth Committee Chair-Kylie McRae; Publicity Committee Chair-Stacey Gulka; PCAP Rep-Krista Connick; and Membership and Awards Committee Chair-Michel Tremblay.

See you at the Summer Section Meeting—in Manitoba, maybe!!

## **North Dakota Chapter Update- Range Forums**

The Range Forum is in its sixth year of providing a way to network with people interested in grassland management in the Northern Great Plains. The Range Forum started as a local, monthly, “brown bag” lunch seminar in the Bismarck/Mandan area and has slowly grown beyond expectations. Attendance is generally around 35 people each month and over 160 people receive our monthly meeting notices. Generally, the Range Forum is a 1 hour program but in 2010 we offered two symposiums; a one day Kentucky Bluegrass Workshop, and a 1 ½ day Range Research Pipeline workshop.

The Kentucky Bluegrass Workshop was attended by over 80 people. Kentucky bluegrass is expanding rapidly from east to west in North Dakota and is viewed as a major threat to the diversity, seasonality and productivity of our native prairies. The Range Research Pipeline was attended by over 30 people from Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Saskatchewan. By getting everyone together in one place, we could see many of the ongoing research projects in the Northern Great Plains and develop areas of collaboration.

Still to come in April will be the first cooperative video session with North Dakota State University. This technology will allow NDSU and the Range Forum to give presenters a wider audience. The first video presentation will be by Dr. Sandy Smart from South Dakota State University. He will be giving a presentation at N.D.S.U. that will be shared with us in the Bismarck/Mandan area.

The Range Forum is organized by volunteers and operates without a budget. The organizing committee includes Mike Brand, John Hendrickson, Sheila McNee and Jeff Printz. E-mail us at [RangeForum@gmail.com](mailto:RangeForum@gmail.com), or visit our website at [www.RangeForum.com](http://www.RangeForum.com).



## Student Conclave Corner

Danny Pratt, a sophomore range student at MSU-Bozeman, was elected President of the Student Conclave at the Denver meeting. Danny will draw on his leadership experiences, including High School Youth Forum President and State FFA 1st Vice President, to handle Conclave business. Danny works as an NRCS SCEP (student trainee) during the summers.

## SRM Masonic Scholarship Winner

Ryder Simeniuk was awarded the prestigious Masonic Range Scholarship at the Denver meeting, and she is one well-deserving young woman! Ryder served as High School Youth Forum President this past year, and was the Montana FFA state public speaking winner in 2009 with her illustrated talk about her family's grazing management. Ryder is a freshman in Range at the University of Wyoming and will be an NRCS SCEP employee in Montana again this summer.



Ryder and Don Kirby,  
SRM Past Presi-

## Montana State University Range Club Continues Long History of Success

The Montana State University Range Club has a long tradition of encouraging students interested in the range profession to develop the skills required to succeed. The SRM annual meeting gives members the opportunity to apply their knowledge as well as to network with other students and professionals. Preparing for contests is the major club activity. Twelve range club members attended the Denver meeting in February 2010 and participated in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME). The team tied for 4<sup>th</sup> against 25 other schools. The top 3 members of the team were Kailee Bickford, Daniel Pratt, and Daisy Garverich. Kailee Bickford also tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> individually on the URME. Several students have begun studying for the Plant ID Exam, but the exam was not attempted this year.

Other activities the club is involved with include a Spring BBQ and "Fun on The Farm", a College of Ag event. This year the range club won "Best Dressed" with our "Prairie Fairy" theme! Last October some members joined the Collegiate Young Farmers and Ranchers Club trick-or-treating for the local food bank. Our biggest fundraiser is working with a local area rancher on a tree thinning project for which we are allowed to cut and sell Christmas trees.

Three students helped Mike Frisina and Dr. Bok Sowell develop a plant list for the Blue Eyed Nelly Wildlife Management Area. We try to get a speaker or two each semester and our fall presentation was from a group of range students reporting on their summer class with Dr. Clayton Marlow. This spring Mike Frisina spoke to the club about his work with Argali, which are wild sheep in Mongolia.

Range students proved their worth at the recent College of Agriculture Scholarship Banquet. Kailee Bickford and Danny Pratt received several scholarships each. Kailee won the Don Ryerson/Ag Lenders School Scholarship and the Charles E. McGlothlin Outstanding Range Student award, and Danny received the Payne-Ryerson Taylor Range Scholarship. More scholarships were awarded to Range Club members Colter Brown, Elizabeth Smith, Shalaine Watson, Brandon Hartz, and Nina Atamaniuk.

The 2009-2010 officers of the range club are: President – Kailee Bickford, Vice President – Schaun Lingohr, Secretary – Kelsey Gibbs, Treasurer – Colter Brown, Ag Student Council Reps – Spurr Watson and Brandon Hartz, Historian – Shalaine Watson.



## News from the University of Saskatchewan Range Team

Students from the University of Saskatchewan and their Coach Darcy Henderson, Canada Wildlife Service, competed in the URME Contest at the Denver Meeting, with the team once again placing in the top ten. Team members were from diverse major fields of study, but all have an interest in ranching and range management.

The Team was sponsored by the Prairie-Parkland Chapter and other organizations, and the team is very appreciative of the generous donations that made it possible for them to compete and network with other range people. They went on a technical tour of conservation practices on ecologically significant grassland between Denver and the Rocky Mountains. The trip was a great experience for all, and they are anxious to start preparing for next year's contest in Billings!



2009-2010 University of Saskatchewan Range Team

## University of Manitoba Range Team Debuts Strongly at Denver

For the first time ever, a Range Team represented the University of Manitoba in student competitions at the Annual Meeting in Denver. The team, consisting of Lindsey Andronak, Rachel Evans, and Alicia Leroux, placed 15<sup>th</sup> out of 24 teams in the URME and fourth out of nine teams in the Rangeland Cup. Each woman also participated in the

Undergraduate Paper Presentations, and the Team wishes to thank Nature Conservancy staff from the Manitoba Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation for providing background information for their Rangeland Cup Poster.



University of Manitoba Range Team L-R: Rachel Evans, Alicia Leroux, Lindsey Andronak, Coach Gwen Donohoe

This excellent performance shows that you do not need classical range management training to succeed in this discipline. The three students brought to the table their knowledge from past experiences and studies in the areas of Agricultural Ecology, Resource Conservation, Animal Science, Soil Science, and Agronomy. Their coach, Gwen Donohoe, a Master of Science student, drew on her University of Saskatchewan Range Team experience and invited speakers from the U of M and from various federal, provincial and local land management agencies. The Team promises to be very competitive at the Billings SRM contests!

# NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS SECTION SRM: MISSION AND GOALS

- To properly take care of the basic rangeland resources of soil, plants, and water, and to develop understanding of rangeland ecosystems and of the principles applicable to the management of range resources; and
- To assist all who work with range resources to keep abreast of new findings and techniques in both the science and art of range management, and to improve the effectiveness of range management; and
- To obtain from range resources the products and values necessary for man's welfare, and to create a public appreciation of the economic and social benefits to be obtained from the range environment; and
- To promote the professional development of its membership with emphasis on issues of the Northern Great Plains.

To:



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