

THE PLAINSMAN

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS SECTION

JULY, 2010



President's Message

Mike Schellenberg, SRM-NGP President

For those of us living in Alberta and Saskatchewan, weather has been the topic of conversation with unusually high amounts of precipitation, resulting in floods occurring in normally dry areas of the Canadian Prairies. This has provided opportunities to recover from last year's drought and test one's plant ID skills with plants not seen for many years.

This has and continues to be a year of opportunity for the Northern Great Plains section of the Society for Range Management as well. The planning committee for the Billings, Montana meeting are making head way and are starting to put the finishing touches on the AGM under the guidance of the co-chairs Tammy Decock and Todd Yeager. The committee has put together a meeting emphasizing the "Transcending Borders" our section is so familiar with.

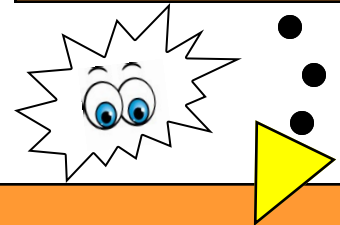
Also as part of the rotating Presidency between North Dakota, Montana and Canada (Manitoba and Saskatchewan) it has been traditional to hold a summer/fall meeting in the region in which the President resides. It is therefore my pleasure to invite the section membership and other interested individuals to come to Brandon, Manitoba to participate in a two day tour and supper meeting. The meeting has been planned in co-operation with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) - Brandon Research Center, AAFC- Agriculture Environmental Services Branch, and Manitoba Agriculture (MAFRI).

Manitoba Forage Council will be accepting Registration for both tour days on their website or by phone. Registration cost is \$25/day or \$40 for both. (See page 3 for details).

The hot roast beef supper is an additional \$15 and our Secretary/Treasurer Jenn Muscha (address on page 2) will accept early registration and payment by cheque for the supper meeting. Please do register early so we can plan ahead for the appropriate numbers attending.

Come and learn what is happening in western Manitoba!

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ND Chapter Update
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Mark your calendars:

- 9/8-9 NGP Section Mtg
@ Brandon, MB
- 9/16-17 ND Ch. Mtg &
Tour @ Hettinger
- 9/25 Old West Range
Judging 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. Send corrections, too!

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**Northern Great Plains
Section Meeting**

September 8 & 9, 2010
Brandon, Manitoba

Wednesday, September 8: Brandon Research Center (BRC)

9:00 Registration & Coffee (Conference Room)

10:00 Presentations (Conference Room)

"Maximizing Production and Profits of Forage-Based Beef Presentations"

New cultivars of annual forages (waxy coated barley)

Novel feeds (dried distillers grains with soluble; flax)

Alternative calving seasons (May-June)

12:00 Lunch (Cafeteria)

1:30 Presentations (Outside)

Alternative pasture management (rested grazing, pasture mixes)

3:30 Refreshments & Questions (Conference Room)

SRM Business meeting (Conference room)

SRM Supper (Conference room)

Thursday, September 9: Rural Municipality of Wallace

9:00 leave BRC for Wallace pasture

10:00 Presentations (Outside)

"Ensuring environmental sustainability of forage-based beef"

Impact of climate change on vegetation

(Sustainable Agriculture Environment Systems site)

Rehabilitating native pastures with rotational grazing

(AESB community pasture)

Nesting cover for waterfowl (Ducks Unlimited site)

Agri-environmental stewardship (Woodworth Grazing Club)

12:00 Lunch (bagged lunch)

1:00 Ducks Unlimited/Canada tour

Dense nesting cover

Grazing clubs (Woodrow group)

3:00 Return to BRC

All tour buses depart from Brandon Research Centre. For more information and to confirm attendance (by September 1st for lunch planning), e-mail event.brc@agr.gc.ca or phone 204-578-3604.



First Call for Paper and Abstracts

for the 64th Annual Meeting for the Society for Range Management, 6-11 February 2011 in Billings, Montana.

The theme of the meeting is "Transcending Borders - Landscapes and Legends". The Northern Great Plains section is sponsoring the meeting and would like a good showing of the section members. See this web site to submit an abstract.

<http://www.rangelands.org/billings2011/>

Billings Meeting Co-Chairs

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North Dakota Chapter Update ND Chapter Meeting and Tour

The 2010 North Dakota Chapter tour is tentatively scheduled for September 17th 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 16th 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.

Section Awards

Dear Section Members,

The application deadline has been extended to 8/15. Please consider honoring the work of someone you know by nominating them for a Section Award. As you can see, we have not taken this opportunity often enough! These people could also be recognized at the Parent Society level at the Billings meeting. Let's share what our people are doing to promote range management!

Kim Haile
khaile@mt.gov

Outstanding Young Range Professional
(any NGP Section Member under 35)

None listed on website

Excellence in Grazing Management
(any area producer)

None listed on website

Outstanding Achievement Award
(any NGP Section member)

1997 Art Bailey, Edmonton, AB
1997 Bill Barker, Fargo, ND
1997 Al Frank, Mandan, ND
1997 Charles McGlothlin, Park City, MT
1998 Chris Hansen, Napoleon, ND
1998 Russ Lorenz, Bismarck, ND
1999 John Berdahl, Mandan, ND
1999 Marshall Haferkamp, Miles City, MT
1999 Don Kirby, Fargo, ND
1999 Paul Nyren, Streeter, ND
2000 Taylor Brown, Huntley, MT
2000 Phil Currey, Melfort, SK
2000 Chris Nykoluk, Regina, SK
2000 Dwight Tober, Bismarck, ND
2001 Tammy DeCock, White Sulphur Springs, MT
2001 Elaine Grings, Miles City, MT
2002 William Fortune,
2002 Jeff Printz, Bismarck, ND

Prairie-Parkland Chapter Notes

Greetings from north of the border. The most common word you heard over the last few months is "Rain, Rain, Rain" and lately if your in the field its "mosquitoes, mosquitoes and more mosquitoes". Conditions have been very wet this spring and it has been great for plant growth and recovery on our native range and tame pastures. Daryl Nazar - President PPC

New Volunteer Executive in the Prairie Parkland Chapter

In June 2009 a new executive was elected to represent the PPC for a two year term. On June 22, 2010 our executive met in Swift Current Sask. for our annual meeting. The meeting coincided with the SRM-Native Prairie Appreciation Annual Workshop and tour. New Executive that will run for a 2 year term was elected in June 2009.

New officers are: President Daryl Nazar, Past President Chris Nykoluk, Vice President Jeff Thorpe, Secretary/Treasurer Trevor Lennox, Youth Chair Kylie McRae, Publicity Chair Stacey Gulka, PCAP Representative Krista Connick, and Membership and Awards Chair Michel Tremblay.

The Saskatchewan Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA)

The TESA award offers an opportunity to showcase the ranching industry's commitment to conservation and also for producers to share their knowledge and ideas. This award recognizes excellence and environmental stewardship in the ranching industry. Producers that implement innovative and successful approaches to environmentally and economically sustainable cattle production are honored with this award. The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, Ducks Unlimited Canada, RBC Royal Bank are co-sponsors of this award. Over the last number of years the Prairie Parkland Chapter has supplied a one year SRM membership to the winning TESA winner. Congratulations to the 2010 winners Glen and Dawn Ekert from Wapella, Saskatchewan. The Ekerts produce organic beef and are involved in a local

E-Newsletter

Our Prairie Parkland Chapter has started an E-Newsletter to inform members about what is happening in the Prairie Parkland Chapter. Thanks to Chris Nykoluk and Stacey Gulka for their work on this newsletter.

Prairie Conservation Action Plan in Saskatchewan (PCAP)

Since the mid 1980's Saskatchewan government and nongovernment agencies have been partnering to deliver the Prairie Conservation Action Plan in Saskatchewan. Our Prairie/Parkland Chapter is a member of the PCAP and we have been partnering with them on various activities most notably our summer workshop and tour held during Saskatchewan's Native Prairie Appreciation Week. On the next page is an overview of what has been happening with PCAP.

Section Elections Coming Up:

Officers to be elected this fall and assume office at the Billings Section meeting are: President-Elect from Montana (will preside in 2012); Director from Prairie Parklands; and Director from the North Dakota Chapter.

The Nominating/Elections Committee consisting of Past Presidents Sandra Brown (Chr.), Keith Bartholomay, and Dale Weisbrot will slate two candidates for each position by September 15.

**The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan:
Embracing a New Approach for 2009-2013**

Submitted by Michelle Yaskowich, PCAP

After ten years of collaborative prairie conservation experience through the implementation of two five-year action plans (1998-2003 and 2003-2008), the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) Partnership decided to embrace a new approach for 2009-2013. Rather than a five-year action plan, the Partnership developed a five-year Framework upon which Annual Workplans are developed.

The Framework sets out a renewed Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles for the Partnership including three goals and five priority focus areas. Focus groups, including PCAP partners and other stakeholders, are formed each year around these focus areas and are responsible for developing, reporting on and revising the Annual Workplans. The deliverables outlined in these Annual Workplans are realistic and can be achieved within each given year allowing PCAP to take small attainable steps towards its overall objective of native prairie conservation.

There are currently 31 PCAP partners representing producers, industry, provincial & federal governments, environmental non-government organizations, research and educational institutions including Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch and Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Environment Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc., Nature Saskatchewan, Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park of Canada, Prairie Learning Centre, Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Association Inc., Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Saskatchewan Forage Council, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources, Saskatchewan Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport– Royal Saskatchewan Museum, and Saskatchewan Parks Service, Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association, Saskatchewan Research Council, Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, SaskPower, **Society for Range Management Northern Great Plains Section - Prairie Parkland Chapter**, University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture and Bioresources and Western Development Museum.

Since the implementation of the 2009-2013 Framework, the following are a few examples of what the Partnership has achieved in the first couple of years: engaged 30,734 Grades 1-6 students at 52 rural elementary and Hutterite colony schools with Eco-Extravaganza and Owls & Cows Tour, and two youth stewardship education programs; engaged 150 producers, technical delivery staff, educators and rural residents through the Prairie Parkland Chapter “Discovering the Missouri Coteau” and “Ranching From the Ground Up” Workshop & Tours during Native Prairie Appreciation Week 2009 & 2010, respectively; piloted a Native Prairie Speaker Series in 2009-2010 aimed at providing up-to-date native prairie and Species at Risk research/activities; engaged 119 participants attending in person and viewing on-line; re-launched the PCAP website as a one-stop-shop for native prairie conservation information including; developed a monthly PCAP newsletter distributed to the 31 partners, seven national & international affiliates and 90 other organizations/individuals showcasing PCAP partners, affiliates, research, resources and upcoming events. PCAP is also developing a standardized database for Saskatchewan range health assessment data to be shared amongst partners and other organizations within the province and compiling an inventory of the top three activities of PCAP partners that affect native prairie.

Over the next five years, the PCAP Partnership will deliver innovative and critical prairie conservation activities that grow out of the unique capacity provided by a partnership such as this that will benefit the social, cultural, economic and ecological fabric of Saskatchewan. Additional information on the history, partners and supporters, and progress of PCAP including viewing the 2009-2013 Framework, 2010 Annual Workplan and 2009 PCAP Update, please feel free to visit our website at www.pcap-sk.org or contact Michelle Yaskowich, PCAP Manager, at (306) 352-0472 or pcap@sasktel.net.

Native Prairie Appreciation Week in Saskatchewan

Submitted by Julie Mackenzie

The Prairie Parkland Chapter of the Society for Range Management, the Prairie Conservation Action Plan and partnering organizations hosted the Native Prairie Appreciation Week Tour in the Swift Current area June 23 & 24, 2010. "Ranching from the Ground Up" was jam-packed with diverse tour stops, speakers, and hands on activities designed to challenge participants to look at things in a new way.

This year's tour focused on the elements that make native prairie, and ranches for that matter, profitable- the plants, soil, and the dead grass or litter that insulates that soil. Tour organizer Trevor Lennox, a Regional Forage Specialist with the Ministry of Agriculture, reported that "Normally in the Southwest, producers are concerned about retaining as much moisture as possible just to ensure plants stay alive. This year we are sure seeing the prairie come alive in unimaginable ways!" This was definitely the case at Orin Balas' ranch south of Ponteix where participants were treated to a spectacular view while learning about soils and litter.

Different soils have the ability to grow different plants and produce different amounts of grass and litter. Until you dig down, see the soil and learn about its ability to produce, you don't know what your possibilities are. Stacey Spent, Articling Agrologist with the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards, explains: "Wet clay-loam soils form a ball when rolled between your fingers. They generally have the ability to hold moisture and grow more grass, whereas sandy soils that are gritty and fall away from each other generally lose moisture faster and tend to produce less litter."

A tour of the Weedon Ranch northwest of Swift Current focused on 'multi-use' of prairie, from oil and gas to the trial dog trainers here for the summer. Much discussion was had on how to appreciate the many uses of rangelands, and how to support and appreciate ranchers charged with taking care of the prairie for livestock and wildlife.

Attendees were also treated to a horsemanship problem-solving demonstration by trainer Dwight Dokken of the Cabri area. The cowboys in the crowd were plastered to the fence as Dwight walked through how to balance out your horse and ensure that it is paying attention to you.

The Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program, TransCanada, Husky Energy, SaskEnergy, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority were major sponsors of this year's tour. When industry takes interest in appreciating native prairie it is encouraging, and thanks go out to all members and non-members who worked throughout the year to make this year's tour successful. Details about the 2011 Native Prairie Appreciation Week will be available shortly at www.pcap-sk.org.



Happenings on the Montana Side **Range Days Features Variety of Activities**

Sunshine and light breezes blessed the 34th annual Montana Range Days at Miles City June 14-16, although evening showers forced campers to move their tents under cover. Over 350 people enrolled in the event, choosing to attend workshops, contests or tours as they wished.

Jan Pratt, host committee chairman, reported that all went well this year, thanks to experience gained from hosting last June and the expertise of the MRD State Steering Committee whose members show up to help put on the final touches. Jan said she is looking forward to attending MRD at Deer Lodge the next two years.

A tour along the Tongue River featured Roger Muggli citing the history and use of the T& Y Irrigation Diversion structure. Muggli also explained the fish bypass structure there. Dr. Kurt Reinhart, Fort Keogh ARS, led a range ecology tour, noting minute components of the range ecosystem such as red harvester ants and thach ants. Kent Undlin, BLM biologist, discussed management of the Pumpkin Creek BLM property.

The cooking crew, under the direction of Debbie Beardsley, worked long hours to prepare breakfast by 6 a.m. and send lunches to the field workshops. Montana beef donated by the Tongue River Cattlewomen was served at the banquet, and a new pork product was featured in a meal sponsored by the Montana Pork Producers. Lamb raised by Hofeldt Feed Lot Lamb Feeders of Chinook was especially tasty. Montana Woolgrowers' member Brent Roeder of Fort Shaw oversaw the roasting process and highly recommends Hofeldt fed lamb.

Plant identification remains the key to any discussion of range management, and MRD participants had several opportunities to get to know southeastern Montana plants. One of the six rotating workshops focused on plant ID, while another focused on plant anatomy. Attendees determined to make the most of Range Days studied at the practice site even after a long day of workshops.

“Teaching people how to assess overall range health is my main goal”, said Jon Siddoway, NRCS State Range Conservationist. Jon and about 50 other range professionals led the workshops and tours. They represented private businesses and agencies including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Fort Keogh Agriculture Research Service and Montana State University.

Local ranchers Don Griffin (Ismay), Pat O'Neill (Terry), and Walt Borntrager (Glendive) served as “instructors” of the range planning workshop. They shared personal insight into range management on their operations, and stressed the importance of livestock water development, cross fencing, and monitoring range condition.

Elementary aged students joined groups named Buckaroos, Ecosystem Explorers, Superstarters and Wranglers. Katrina Lannen of Clyde Park is a veteran instructor of the youngest group, Buckaroos. She and the rest of the Buckaroo staff planned activities to introduce little ones ages 4-6 to natural resource management.

Carol Hilliard, Broadus, instructed the 7-8 year olds for the first time. “These nine little girls are really intent on learning about range”, Hilliard remarked as the girls played in the sand and water of the “Rolling Rivers” educational exhibit.

A unique part of Montana Range Days is the Illustrated Talks contest, where students research a range-related topic and present their information. Alexandria Nelson of Harlowton, a newcomer to MRD, shared knowledge of weeds she identifies and sprays as part of her employment with the county weed control crew.

FFA students from Chief Washakie High School in Worland, Wyoming each spoke, hoping to earn points toward top MRD awards. The youngest presenter, 11 year old Jonathan Wright of Circle, MT, showed how the mouth and stomach structure of domestic and wild grazing animals determines what range plants they forage on.

Alyssa Wolenetz of Ekalaka was one of many students who left the dance early the night before the contest in order to study. Her work paid off when she was awarded the Top Greenhand award—a Montana Silversmith's belt buckle.

Brandon Gould, Ulm, Montana, earned the Top Rangehand award buckle for points earned in the plant collection and display contests as well as the illustrated talks and range management tests. Loni Blackman, Wolf Creek, presented the winning Illustrated Talk about pine beetles on her family's ranch. Other top awards were: Jakim Ricketts, Livingston, Top Superstarter; Ben Roeder, Fort Shaw, Top Wrangler; Casey Hereim, Judith Gap, Top Open Youth, and Alyssa Wolenetz, Ekalaka, Top FFA Youth.

The top two range plant collections were entered by Loni Blackman, Wolf Creek, and Sunny Gaughen, Alzada. The top two weed collections were entered by Chase Anderson, Miles City, and Brandon Gould, Ulm, Montana. The Shields Valley FFA won first place in team competition with members Conner Rose, Shawn Stutterheim, Brock Street, and Carmen George. The top Open Youth team members were Andrew and Brandon Gould, Ulm; Sunny Gaughen, Alzada; and Alexandria Nelson, Harlowton. Ron Anderson of Ismay was first place in the Rancher Division, and Crystal Gates of Hysham won the Open Adult Division. (More info at montanarangadays.org)

Alicia Hargrave Memorial Scholarship

I would like to take a minute to share with you a Prairie Parkland SRM chapter initiative to commemorate the spectacular, but short life of my dear friend Alicia Hargrave.

Alicia grew up on the Hargrave Ranch at Walsh, Alberta. From a very young age she was taught to serve her community and to always strive to do good for the land and others, and what awesome things she did! Alicia received a degree in Range Management from the U of S in 2003 and re-started the U of S Range team which still is going strong today. Alicia revised the plant ID books in use today.

She also fought avidly for landowner rights when dealing with oil and gas development and was concerned with the impact of such development on prairie species. Alicia understood cattle and grass very well.

Many will tell you Al had a passion for traveling, family and friends, and she was a humanitarian. She traveled to Costa Rica to help at an Ag University, live with the people and help with development.

Teaching youth about range management was next on her 'to-do' agenda when she passed away. Her friends, colleagues and family in Walsh, Alberta have carried on her dream with a youth range camp yearly at the Hargrave Ranch.

It is only fitting after her death from a horse riding accident shortly after NPAW 2007 that her spirit of helping others is carried on through a Scholarship.

The Alicia Hargrave Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually to a U of S student pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with interest in rangeland resources. The scholarship fund has been created through the Agriculture and Bioresources College at the University of Saskatchewan. The goal is to raise \$10,000.00 for the bursary by early 2012 so it can continue for at least 20 years. The hard work of Krista, Etienne, Mike, Daryl, Trevor, Chris and all the rest of you to get this scholarship up and going has been amazing.

We hope that as you plan your donations or planned-giving this year (or for the next couple of years) that you consider this very worthwhile investment in the future of young professionals that care about Native Prairie, like Alicia. Contributions to the scholarship fund can be sent directly to the University of Saskatchewan (or given to Trevor Lennox during NPAW).

Please write cheques to: "University of Saskatchewan" and note on them that they are for the Alicia Hargrave Memorial Bursary. Cheques should be sent to **Jo Anne Ellis, University Advancement, 501-121 Research Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 1K2.**

Please feel free to email these people to get more information or to find out how to set up a yearly donation: Trevor- trevor.lennox@gov.sk.ca; Mike- Michael.Champion@AGR.GC.CA; Julie- njmackenzie@xplornet.com.



Thank you all from the bottom of my heart!
Julie MacKenzie

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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