



NE Section Council

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Inside this issue:

Photo Focus	2
Nebraska Youth Range Camp	2
2021 Nebraska Section SRM Annual Meeting	3
Range Plant ID Pop Quiz	3
Letter of Thanks	4

Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



Message from the President by Jack Arterburn

I hope everyone is having a good 2021 as life begins the transition back to normal. Hard to believe the year is half over.

Springs rains got off to a shaky start but picked up when we needed them. Never mind the heat and dryness setting in, I am enjoying the forage growth while we have it. The grass is green and tall (in places) and the cattle are happy to be on pasture.

I had my college blinders on during the last significant drought in 2012, so I am a bit anxious for my first extreme drought experience in the “real world.” Temperatures over 100 degrees in early June have me worried. Although parts of the state have still gotten rain, precipitation in the northwest has been spotty and accompanied by a tremendous amount of lightning. Thankfully, the green vege-

tation helped limit the growth of several fires in the area, however, below average fuel moisture levels were apparent as crews had difficulty extinguishing fires in the timber. Cheatgrass is drying out and native cool-season grass will not be far behind in these hot dry conditions. Then the gratitude for forage growth turns to fear of the fuel load.

Spring moisture went a long way making hay, however alfalfa weevils and dry conditions in 2020 resulted in below normal yields. Now the current dryness and heat threaten to end haying season after one cutting. Hay supplies are already tight from last year which will further exacerbate hay demand and prices.

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, I feel SRM is more important than ever during and

following drought to provide range managers guidance on sound management practices. Remind grazers that reduced forage production does not reduce the residual biomass necessary for plant community health and vigor. For example, 25% below normal production results in 50% reduction in grazing. Damage to rangeland during dry years, especially consecutive dry years, heightens negative impacts to production for multiple years to come.

I hope everyone has a great summer. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in person in October.

Stay well.

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 By-Laws were changed at the parent society to enact a single annual membership renewal date of January 1st of each year. Nebraska Section membership was at 86 members, with 70 of them claiming Nebraska as their primary section and 16 claim the Nebraska section as secondary.

The 53rd annual Nebraska Youth range Camp was held June 6th - 10th at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp near Halsey

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.

Continued on Page 5...

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



Carolina larkspur Inflorescence

Carolina larkspur is also known as prairie larkspur and plains larkspur. It is found on prairies across the state and it flowers in May and June. It is quite a showy plant that can cause problems for the livestock producer.

Carolina larkspur ranges in height from 1 ½ to 3 feet. Its stems are erect and relatively stout and may be branched or unbranched. The stems are covered with soft hairs. The leaves are alternate. The lower leaves have long stalks while the upper leaves are nearly sessile. The leaves, which are round or circular in outline, are deeply palmately divided with 3 to 7 lobes which are further divided.

The inflorescences are spike-like racemes that can be up to 10 inches long with 5 to 50 flowers. The flowers have petal-like sepals which are usually white but can have a faint lavender or blue color. The upper sepal extends backward as a horizontal spur. Larkspurs get their name because the

spur resembles the spur on the foot of a lark. The flowers have 4 petals that are white or yellowish white. The upper 2 petals extend backward into the spur and the lower 2 petals are bearded.

While quite attractive, Carolina larkspur is toxic. According to the NE Plants Toxic to Livestock, the plant contains several toxic agents norditerpenoid alkaloids including methyllycaconitine. Cattle find the plant very palatable while horses and sheep do not usually consume it. All parts of the plant are toxic, when fresh or dried in hay. Ingestion of amounts as small as 0.5% of body weight may be lethal for cattle; death can occur within one hour of ingestion. Sheep can consume six times as much plant material before being poisoned. Poisoning can result in impairment of the nervous system and respiratory failure. There have been a number of poisonings attributed to larkspur in Nebraska.

2021 Nebraska Youth Range Camp by Sara Wahl, Range Youth Camp Committee Co-Director

The Nebraska Youth Range Camp is back after a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic. We returned to the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis, NE on June 7 - 10, 2021. Camp was lead by Co-Directors Sara Wahl and Shelly Kelly. Twenty-seven students from all across Nebraska, including one camper from Colorado took part in the four-day long camp. The students learned about ecological sites, stocking rates, prescribed fire, wildlife, ranch economics, similarity index, ruminant nutrition, and so much more.

All activities that the campers participate in count towards points to earn the top "Crew" award and top individual for the week. The top crew for the week was =Y lead by Sheridan Wilson. Her crew was made up of Joe Barenberg, Adam Knapp, Jayna Guggenmos, and Katelyn Reichman.

The overall top new camper went to Bobbi Guggenmos of Erickson and the top returning camper went to Joe Barenberg of McCook. The top newcomer exam award went to Gracie Ackles of St. Paul.

Range Camp had fourteen ranch sponsors this year, along with a generous donation from Farm Credit Services of America in North Platte. This helped us decrease our registration fee this year. We want to give a very special thanks to all of those who helped make camp possible, especially our Crew Bosses who helped us throughout the entire week. This year our crew bosses included: Teyn Baldwin, Brad Carlson, Ashely Garrelts, Cody Grewing, Matt Zvolanek, Sheridan Wilson, and Nick Coffey. Blair Hartman also assisted Sara and Shelly throughout the entire week.

We are excited to return to Curtis, Nebraska in 2022.



2021 Annual Meeting and Conference, October 13-14 by Brad Schick, Annual Meeting Committee



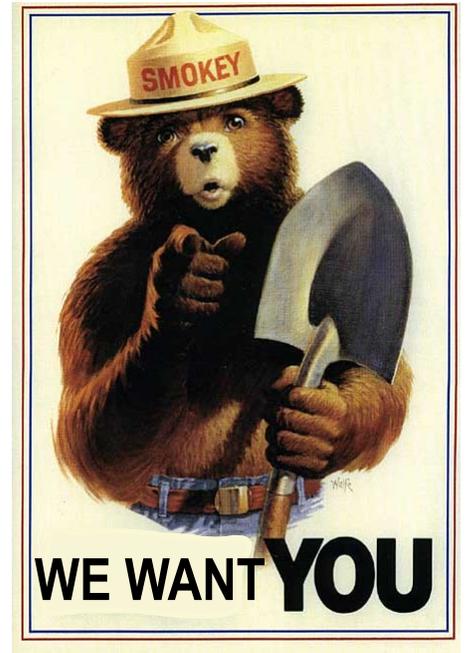
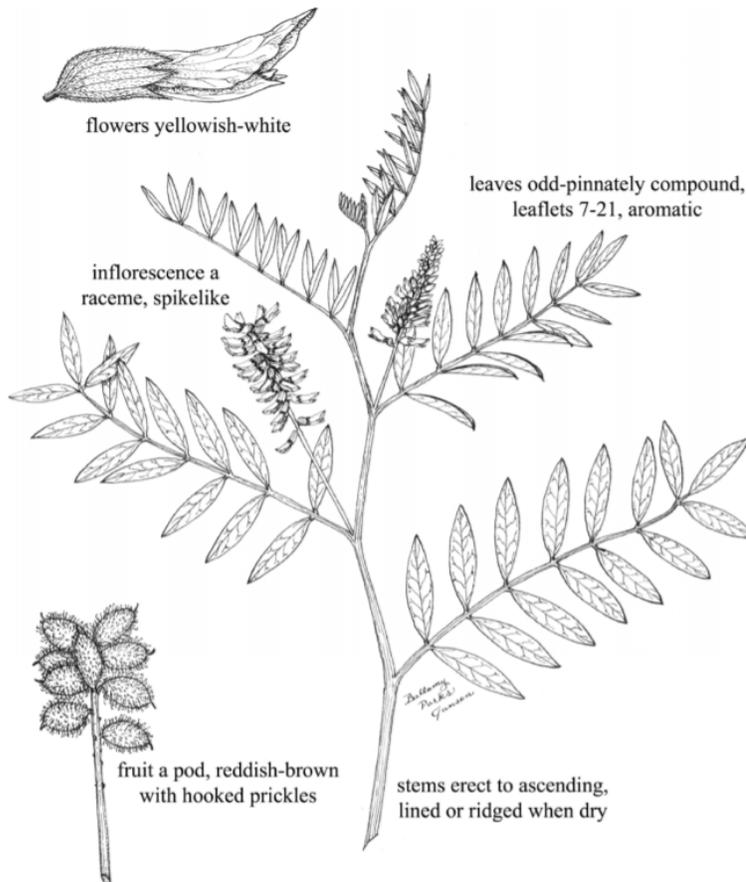
We are excited to have our SRM Annual Meeting and Conference in person this fall at the Hyatt in Lincoln. The dates for the conference will be October 13-14. The night of October 12 will be reserved for the council meeting, the 13th will be our full day of meetings and presentations while the 14th will be the tour day. The tour will focus on the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch with Dr. Dave Wedin and the Spring Creek Prairie with Ed Hubbs.



Reservations can be made at
www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/LNKZL/G-0275
or
by calling Hyatt Place, Lincoln Downtown-Haymarket at
(402) 742-6007 and using the Group Code G-0275.

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 5.



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.

Letter of Thanks from 2021 Nebraska Youth Range Campers



Society for Range Management

Nebraska Section

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SRM

Thank you Society for Range Management, for sponsoring the youth Range Camp. Without your help it would be nearly impossible for kids to come and learn about range management and plants. But also learn about the wildlife that live on that land, about the different types of soils and types of range, and water development. We also learned about how teamwork is a nesscessary for getting things done right the first time. We are very grateful for you sponsoring the Youth Range Camp and are looking forward to coming back next year.

Thank you Society for Range Management! Bobbi
Coby Grecker
Isaac
Goosey
Daniel McMillon
Kassidy Flynn
Tyler D
Brynn
Adam Knapp
Katelyn Richman
Cheyenne Roberts
Allie Bingham
Kerry
Joseph B
Rebecca Reece
Alexis
William
Nakennen Howat
Ryder
Loraine
Joseph

MISSION: To promote the professional development and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangeland resources
VISION: A well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangeland users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems

Historian's Report Continued...

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 first North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course (NAIPSC) was held at North Platte, July 6th - 8th. There were 38 participants. Steve Young, former Weed Ecologist with the UNL, West Central Research and Extension Center organized and facilitated the course.

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 U. S. Postal Service released the "Great Plains Prairie" stamp as part of their Nature of America stamp series. The artwork on the stamp depicts 25 plant and animal species native to the mixed-grass prairie of the American Great Plains as painted by John D. Dawson of Hilo, Hawaii.

Jim and Lora O'Rourke of Chadron became the proud parents to twins born March 31, 2001.

Thirty Years Ago (1991)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Cort Dewing, President; Jack Maddux, Past Presi-

dent; Catherine Mills, President Elect; Daryl Cisney, Secretary Treasurer; Mary Schrader, Newsletter Editor; James O'Rourke and Sheila Valasek (Luoma) were council members.

Preparations were in full swing for the International SRM summer meeting to be held in North Platte. More than 20 Nebraska Section members were involved in organizing the meetings as chairs of the various committees.

Pat Speirs of the UNL Range Club spearheaded the effort to host the 11th annual Rangeland Symposium. The focus of the symposium was on riparian areas. A video tape of the symposium was prepared by Pat Speirs and Lisa Clark (McMillan), which was shown on the Wildlife and Resources Journal on the cable network in Lincoln.

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.

Mick Helberg hosted a range workshop at Hayes Center with over 100 people in attendance. The primary speakers were Barb Bush (Cooksley), Jim Gosey, Jim Nichols, and Don Hartford.

The 2nd annual Rangeland Symposium was held at the UNL East Campus with approximately 200 people in attendance. Speakers included Ben Brown, Tyrone Harrison, Rose McCullough, and Jim Stubbendieck.

Fifty Years Ago (1971)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Bob Hill, President; Harlan DeGarmo, Past Presi-

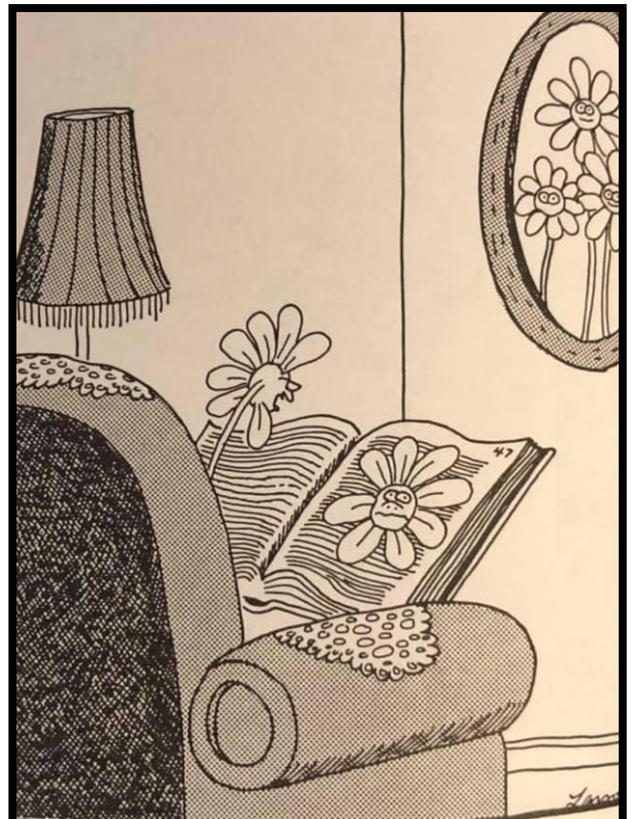
dent; Ray Sall, President-Elect; Ken Noonan, Secretary Treasurer; Jim Nichols and Don Cox, Newsletter Editors; and Ken Weyers and Bob Bobek were councilmen.

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)

The Gratten Hustlers 4-H Range Judging Team from O'Neill place 1st in range judging at the International Land, Pasture and Range Judging contest held in Oklahoma City. There were teams from 26 states with over 800 contestants. The team members were Charles and Richard Hill, Keith Krugman, and Gary Fick. Walt Fick was their coach. Gary Fick placed third as an individual.



As Harriet turned the page, a scream escaped her lips: There was Donald—his strange disappearance no longer a mystery.