



Society for Range Management – North Central Section
Northern Reflections
March 2010

New Officers

President: **Mark Hayek**
MarkandKelly@wiktel.net
(218) 528-2470

President-Elect:
Larry Brummund
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(920)733-1575 x127

Past President: **Matt Bunger**
Matt.Bunger@il.usda.gov
(217) 473-2690

Treasurer: **Richard Hungerford**
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Secretary: **John Zinn**
jzinn@mwt.net
(608) 634-3834

Newsletter Editor/Membership:
Patti Novak-Echenique
pnovech@mindspring.com
(775) 577-9625

A message from Matt Bunger - Outgoing President:

Well, it is time to pass on the reins to some bright and new talent. We have some great individuals coming in this year. It has been a pleasure being your section president over this past year. As I think about this past year, I wonder where the time went. I do know that the North Central section has maintained its membership, the section will be filling the Region 2 and Region 3 Director positions, and we have a volunteer for the section Youth Contact. I know we all have busy lives, but if anyone has a little time to fill any positions with the North Central section, I would challenge you to say “yes”, if asked. To be honest, I was not really sure what to expect when I agreed to the nomination. I can tell you all now it has been a real learning experience. I am not sure if it is the position itself, or the fact that I have been more in-touch with what is going on as a result of the position., I do know that I am much more aware of how SRM operates and the importance of having strong membership and leadership within SRM and our section. It is interesting with some of the behind the scenes issues.

I want to stress for all of us to stay involved with SRM. The section did away with the quarterly conference calls due to poor attendance. I really hated to see this, but with less than a handful participating it just didn't seem worth it. If we have conference calls again or opportunities to come together, I encourage you all to take part, as there is some very valuable information shared. It is also your opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas with other members. I hope to see you all down the road sometime. Maybe that opportunity will be at future SRM conferences. Thanks to all the members for your support and let us welcome our new Section President – Mark Hayek!

Sincerely,
Matt Bunger

SRM NORTH CENTRAL SECTION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the upper Midwest most casual conversations will turn to the topic of weather at some point. As I write this article the temperature outside is hovering around 40 degrees, which is giving quite a boost to my motivation and spirit. Winter is beginning to release its cold grip around us and hints of spring are beginning to show with the sound of melting snow dripping from the eaves of the house. We become surrounded with renewal in the spring: newly born livestock, newly seeded gardens, newly arrived songbirds, etc... Just as Mother Nature experiences seasonal changes so does SRM and our local section. With the recent election of officers, this renewal is beginning for the NCS. I certainly thank Matt Bunger as the outgoing President for the amount of hours and willingness to volunteer and help lead our Section to where it is today. SRM (or the NCS) does not operate without members willing to volunteer for service. Thank you to all the past and present members who have shaped what SRM and the NCS is today. That being said, there is still more work to be done to improve SRM and the NCS not just for tomorrow but ten, twenty, or fifty years from now. I hope to continue this discussion in our next newsletter, but for now we have newly elected officers that will be joining the Board of Directors.

Once the elections have been finalized there will be a BOD conference call to begin the process of organizing and further directing the focus of the NCS. I look forward to leading and organizing our Section to better serve our members and our cause. The President's Report in the November 2009 newsletter brought up the importance of recruiting student membership which is a key element to the future success of SRM. We need to insure that this item and other past issues are not lost in this transition period. As your incoming president I will have an open door policy to discuss any and all issues with any member in good standing. We are a family.

Thank you for electing me as your Section President.

Regards,

Mark Hayek
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Badger, MN 56714
218-528-2470

North Central Section Meeting Minutes (February 9, 2010):

Meeting held in conjunction with Annual SRM Conference, Denver, CO.

Called to order: 6:05 pm Brian Pillsbury, Section Secretary

Members present: Brian Pillsbury, Jana Malot, Jim Truax, Mark Hayek, and Patti Novak-Echenique

Financial and Membership Report: none

Old Business:

The section still needs a board member for Region 1. Lawrence Foote will serve on the board for Region 3. Devan McGranahan notified Patti that he would be willing to serve as student liaison. Devan is a graduate student at Iowa State.

New Business:

1) Conferences where section could rent booth space: National Invasive Weeds Meeting, Duluth, MN and Native Grass Symposium, Knoxville, TN. Mark will have Roger mail display to him.

2) Buckle sales – need a tracking system (spreadsheet) to keep track of buckle sales. Need to promote these. Jim Truax mentioned that the in years past, students would line up at his booth to buy buckles. Buckle sales were slow at this year's meeting. Brian will display the buckles near the hotel lobby to see if we can get more sales.

3) Goals for this year:

- a) Recruitment of student members – we need a liaison to work on this aspect – Devan has volunteered. Mark will contact him.
- b) Consider paying for three student memberships
- c) Conduct an essay contest and send winner to next annual SRM conference in Billings, MT. An advisory committee was formed to develop rules and theme of contest. Mark will chair and Jana volunteered to participate. Committee will determine the cost to send winner to the next conference.
- d) Election nominations - Mark Hayek (MN) for president, Larry Brummund (WI) for president-elect. Patti will send out ballot to section members to sanction election

Other Business:

Mark attended the Advisory Board Meeting on Monday of the conference. The Advisory Council revised the Council's handbook. Mark has a copy of the updated version. The Council would like to have a symposium on interactions between wildlife and domestic animals.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patti Novak-Echenique
Newsletter Editor

Membership Information: As of February 2010, the North Central section has 38 active members and 5 expired members.

Treasury Report – current report not available

Graduate Student Position Available

A graduate student position for grazing ecology of dairy systems is available the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State University. For more information see attached document and contact:

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Dept. Animal Science &
W.K. Kellogg Biological Station
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Hickory Corners, MI 49060
Phone (269) 671-2230
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Upcoming Events:

March 30: Grazing Workshop, Ames Quality Inn Starlite Village Conference Center, Ames, Iowa, Sponsored by Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Iowa Native Lands.

<http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/events.htm>

****Section Member: Devan McGranahan will speak on “Patch Burn Grazing – Effects on Cattle Body Condition”**

April 8: Rotational Grazing Webinar at 6:45pm Eastern Time; University of Vermont Center for Sustainable Agriculture’s Pasture Program. <http://tinyl.com/GrazingBasics/>

May 16-19: Alltech’s 20th International Animal Health and Nutrition Symposium, Lexington, KY. For more information: <http://www.alltech.com/symposium>.

June 21-23: American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Conference, University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO. <http://www.afgc.org/>.

July 18-21: 6th International Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO Hilton at the Ballpark. <http://www.swcs.org/index.cfm>

Aug 1-6: 95th Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting - “*Global Warming: the legacy of our past, the challenge for our future*”. Pittsburgh Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA. For more information: <http://www.esa.org/>

Aug 10-11: Nebraska Grazing Conference, Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE. For more information: <http://www.grassland.unl.edu/grazeconf.htm>

Oct. 5-8: 7th Eastern Native Grass Symposium – “*Native Grasses on Working and Natural Landscapes*”, Knoxville Marriott, Knoxville, TN. For more information: <http://nativegrasses.utk.edu/>

Oct. 25-29: Annual Natural Areas Conference. Lake of the Ozarks, MO. For more information: <http://www.naturalarea.org/>



Editors Note:

The first day of spring arrived on a beautiful day here in northern Nevada – sunny and 70°F! I’m sure we’ll see more snow before we can officially declare it spring. The annual meeting in Denver was a huge success with over 2300 people registered. Having a joint meeting with the Weed Society proved to be very successful as invasive weeds are a major concern for both societies. Have a great spring!

News-worthy items for the Newsletter:

The North Central Section is made up of several states - Region 1: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ontario, Quebec. Region 2: Illinois, Iowa. Region 3: Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania. Currently, our membership includes people from all section states. We also have members from Florida, Kansas, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, California, Utah and Nevada. If you have any information you would like to see in the next newsletter contact me via email (pnovech@mindspring.com) or by phone (775) 577-9625 (Or I may contact you!). Thanks!

