

## **President's Corner**

**Will Boyer**

**President, Kansas Section, SRM**

Our meeting next month offers members plenty of learning and networking opportunities. Again this fall we are meeting jointly with the Kansas Grazing Land Coalition. Tim Christian has stepped down from their leadership position, and the reins are in the hands of his successor, Barth Crouch. Although Tim's experience and professionalism will be missed, it is exciting to imagine where new leadership with similar conservation experience will take the organization.

We are meeting at Camp Wood near Elmdale beginning the morning of Wednesday October 14<sup>th</sup>. However, on the 13<sup>th</sup> at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve there is professional workshop covering the effects of fall burning on steer production, forage, water, air and soil. It includes a field tour of an area burned the fall of 2014, along with presentations and a panel discussion. Speakers include David Engle from Oklahoma State University, John Briggs from Kansas State University, Brian Obermeyer from the Nature Conservancy, Kristin Hase from the National Parks Service, Sherry Leis from Missouri State University, and Deon Steinle from USFWS. A flier for the meeting is accessible here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0hV9sqfOnA5ZkRWV\\_V9YX1ZXWms/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0hV9sqfOnA5ZkRWV_V9YX1ZXWms/view?usp=sharing)

As a part of our business meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> we will recognize the three Excellence in Rangeland Management Award winners. As a reminder, they are Graham Farms/Graham School in Anderson County, Pearce Ranch in Wallace County, and Spring Creek Ranch in Chase County. Following the award presentations and any additional business of the meeting, we will have a wonderful opportunity to tour Spring Creek Ranch with the Miller family.

So come early and enjoy all of the planned activities. You can't go wrong; knowledgeable speakers, interesting tours, good friends and the lodging and meals at the camp are a great value.

## **Nomination of Spring Creek Ranch, Dan and Kathy Miller for Excellence in Rangeland Management Award**

It doesn't take long in conversation about the ranch to see that Dan and his wife Kathy are proponents of good stewardship practices to maintain the health of their tallgrass prairie pastures. Dan was committed to long-term preservation of the prairie and thus enrolled a good percentage of the land into the Grassland Reserve Program with USDA-NRCS. Dan and Kathy have invested in cross-fencing to manage livestock grazing and water developments to provide dependable water supplies for the livestock that graze on their ranch. One spring development on the ranch used to provide water via an old wooden pipeline to Cottonwood Falls. The spring development now provides dependable water to 2 separate pastures via pipeline and tanks. During the recent drought, Dan took advantage of the low water levels in ponds and had them cleaned out to add capacity and put pipelines through the dams to allow tank installation below the ponds. Dan has also implemented rotational grazing when grazing cows and utilizes an intensive early stocking system with stockers to provide late-season rest for his pastures. He also recognized drought as it came upon the ranch and was proactive in management by reducing livestock numbers to match the forage production during those dry years. Dan and Kathy live in Cimarron, Kansas and thus rely on their daughter, Katie Miller, and ranch manager T.J. Bryan to carry out daily management of ranch operations. As a team, they prioritize stewardship at Spring Creek Ranch.

Doug Spencer

**KANSAS SECTION  
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT  
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<http://rangelands.org/kansas>

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recognized following lunch. In the afternoon we will tour Spring Creek Ranch. Lunch will cost \$8.25 with RSVP due to Barth Crouch by October 7. Barth can be contacted at 785-452-0780 or [barth.crouch@gmail.com](mailto:barth.crouch@gmail.com)

The following arrangements are available for those planning to attend the Effects of Fall Burning Workshop on October 13 and stay over for the Kansas Grazing Land Coalition and Kansas Section, SRM meeting on October 14:

Lodging costs at Camp Wood: \$25/person/night

Breakfast: \$7

Lunch and Dinner: \$8.25 each

Again, RSVP your intentions to Barth Crouch at 785-452-0780 or [barth.crouch@gmail.com](mailto:barth.crouch@gmail.com) by October 7 or call him if you have questions.

Dr. KC Olson will be presenting his sericea lespedeza research results and plans for additional study at 6:30 p.m. at Camp Wood on October 13.

### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

If you have not paid your dues or would like to join SRM, please do so at <http://rangelands.org>. Membership forms can be found under the Membership Services tab. There have been some problems with membership renewal notices in the last few months. For more information on membership in SRM, or to request a Membership Application, please contact the Membership and Subscription Administrator at 785-865-9456 (OR) 1-800-627-0326 x 456 or email at: [membership@rangelands.org](mailto:membership@rangelands.org) If you would like to contribute an article related to rangeland management please do so and send it to me at [whfick@ksu.edu](mailto:whfick@ksu.edu).

### Kansas Section, SRM Meeting

The fall meeting of the Kansas Section, SRM will be held October 14, 2015 at Camp Wood, near Elmdale, KS. The meeting is scheduled to start around 10:30 a.m. The agenda includes: minutes, correspondence, reports, old business, new business, and announcements. Three Excellence in Rangeland Management Awardees will be

### Range Youth Camp - 2015



## KANSAS SECTION-SRM EXCELLENCE IN RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

### Graham Farms/Graham School – Anderson County

Frank Graham has instinctively managed his native grass and cattle operation to continuously improve his rangeland health. He also runs the Graham School teaching hundreds of operators proper AI techniques. The Graham Ranch is a family run operation that puts conservation minded management first. Frank has improved the health of his rangeland through proper grazing techniques, rotation, and rest. He has put water quality and quantity at the top of his list of priorities. Through proper AI techniques and animal selection Graham Farms has built a high quality cow herd that reach their maximum potential and profitability. Wildlife conservation and management go hand in hand on Graham Farms. Frank has replanted or rehabilitated over 40 acres back to native grass and installed several buffer strips throughout his land to improve habitat for native wildlife species. Frank and his son have removed dozens of acres of invasive and encroaching trees in order to promote healthy ecosystems throughout their property. Graham Farms goes above and beyond when it comes to land management and it shows.

Dane Varney



**Plant identification at western Range Management School at Scott Lake – August 6, 2015**

### Pearce Ranch – Wallace County

The Pearce Ranch, operated by Brian Pearce and Ben Johnson is a working ranch. They have always accepted and accounted for use during drought and appreciated the few moist times as a bonus without taking extra advantage, allowing root systems to buildup. They have always tried to use up-to-date grazing and wildlife management techniques. Ahead of normal High Plains grazing culture, they have used NRCS EQIP grazing and Lesser Prairie Chicken programs to refine their system. Ranch personnel frequently want reviews of plant identification and help to monitor grazing pressure and upland bird habitat value.

Roger Tacha

Nominations for Kansas Section, SRM 2016 Awards are due to David Kraft or Shelly Wiggam by January 23. Nomination forms for the Excellence in Rangeland Management Award and Trailboss Award are available at [Kansas Section Awards](#)



**Smoky Valley Ranch Tour – August 5, 2016**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October 13 Effects of Fall Burning Workshop, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Strong City, KS
- October 13 Kansas Prescribed Fire Council, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Strong City, KS
- October 14 Kansas Grazing Land Coalition, Camp Wood, Elmdale, KS
- October 14 Kansas Section, Society for Range Management, Camp Wood, Elmdale, KS
- November 22-24 Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention, Wichita, KS
- December 2-4 Kansas Livestock Association Annual Conference, Wichita, KS
- December 15 Kansas Forage & Grassland Council Annual Meeting, Manhattan, KS  
<http://ksfgc.org>
- Jan. 10-13, 2016 American Forage & Grassland Council Annual Conference, Baton Rouge, LA  
<http://afgc.org>
- Jan. 31-Feb.4, 2016 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Technical Training & Trade Show, Corpus Christi, TX <http://rangelands.org/events>
- Feb. 4-5, 2016 Kansas Natural Resources Conference, Wichita, KS <http://www.kansasnrc.org>