

Vol. 24, No. 1

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## **President's Report**

### **Elmer Finck**

In June the SRM Advisory Council voted to hold the 2019 Annual National Meeting in Calgary, Alberta, and the 2020 Annual National Meeting in Loveland, Colorado. Being on the Advisory Council, I told them that the KS Section of SRM had voted not to host the 2019 meeting in Wichita because we were not consulted. Subsequently, I was contacted by Amy Schmidt from the Wichita Convention and Visitors Bureau. They are still interested in hosting the annual meeting in 2021. I recommended that she should attend our annual meeting at KNRC. She informed me that she would. Thus, think about this between now and the end of January.

## **Review of 2016**

### **Walt Fick**

A few Kansas Section members attended the SRM Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, TX January 31-February 4 presenting papers, posters, and chairing/participating on SRM committees. The annual meeting of the Kansas Section, SRM was held February 4 in conjunction with the Kansas Natural Resources Conference in Wichita. Elmer Finck is the new Kansas Section President. The Kansas Section is a sponsor for the KNRC. Fick, Greer, Harmoney, Finck, Boyer, and Houseman authored/co-authored presentations at the KNRC. In the spring the Kansas Section held an election. Alex Miller was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president. Roger Tacha and Toni Flax were elected directors. A big event in March was the Anderson Creek wildfire. The wildfire began on March 22 in Oklahoma and burned across much of Barber County and part of Comanche County over the next 2 days. A wet snow on Easter helped put out the fire. In Barber County alone, over 258,000 acres of rangeland were burned. Damage assessment exceeded \$30 million from the wildfire with most of the

damage to fences and livestock. This was the largest wildfire in Kansas history. Despite some soil erosion early on, the rangeland recovered nicely because of timely and adequate rainfall.



Anderson Creek Wildfire 2 weeks post burning

Prescribed burning in April resulted in smoke issues in Wichita, KS and Lincoln, NE. Most of the state received adequate growing season precipitation. In June, the U.S. Drought Monitor indicated no level of drought throughout Kansas. By December though, the western half of Kansas was once again impacted by some level of drought. The Kansas Range Youth Camp under the direction of Amber Johnson was held July 12-15 at Camp Mennoscah in Kingman County. Other people assisting with the camp were James Ungerer, Chris Tecklenburg, Walt Fick, Doug Spencer, and David Kraft. The Kansas Section supported two students attending the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition range schools in August. The shortgrass/mixed grass school was held August 2-4 at Camp Lakeside in Scott County. Participants spent a day on the Smoky Valley Ranch managed by the Nature Conservancy. The Tallgrass school was held August 16-18 at Camp Wood near Elmdale, KS. The participants spent one day at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. Abundant rainfall across much of Kansas contributed to substantial residue remaining in pastures at the end of the grazing season. Prescribed burning will probably be widespread in 2017, particularly in the Flint Hills and eastern Kansas.

**KANSAS SECTION  
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT  
BOX 303, MANHATTAN, KS 66505**

<http://rangelands.org/kansas>

Elmer Finck	President
Shelly Wiggam	First Vice-President
Alex Miller	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
Mitchel Greer	Director
James Ungerer	Director
Roger Tacha	Director
Toni Flax	Director
Vacant	Secretary/Treasurer
Will Boyer	Past President
Livia Olsen	Webmaster
Jessica Casey	Historian
Walter Fick	Newsletter Editor

### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

If you have not paid your dues or would like to join SRM, please do so at <http://rangelands.org>. Click on the Join tab at the top of the page. Membership rates and printable forms can be found at that link. If you haven't noticed, the Society for Range Management has a new website. Information continues to be updated. Membership in SRM and the Kansas Section have gone down the last few years. I strongly encourage you to remain or become a member. Any organization is only as good as its members. There are many opportunities to get involved. You get out of an organization what you put into it. 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).

### Minutes for the Kansas Section Society for Range Management Meeting – February 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Will Boyer at 4:55 p.m. at the Double Tree Hotel in Wichita, KS. He presented a certificate of appreciation to Jessica Casey for serving as a Section director in 2014-15. Will passed the gavel to incoming president, Elmer Finck. Elmer

presented Will with a certificate for his term as Section President in 2015.

Walt Fick read the minutes of the October 15, 2015 meeting held at Camp Wood. The minutes were approved as read.

Elmer and others discussed correspondence received from SRM including having joint membership with other societies. Shelly Wiggam said that SRM had discussed members of SRM may be able to receive reduced registration at The Wildlife Society for instance.

Walt reported \$5,533.67 in our Section account as of February 4, 2016.

**Officer Reports:** Shelly reported on the recently held SRM meeting in Corpus Christi, TX. All sections of SRM are struggling with membership. All would like more support from SRM. Interest has been expressed by members of the Oklahoma Section about resurrecting the K-O Section. GLCI would like SRM to reduce dues for ranchers to \$35. Sections are encouraged to request funding from SRM for activities involving ranchers. Sections that are doing well have combined SRM and GLCI activities. The Wichita Convention & Visitors Bureau put in a bid for the 2019 SRM meeting. It may have been the low bid and EVP Jess Peterson would like to see Wichita host the meeting. Fick reported that the Bluestem Bulletin had been distributed in January, June, and September in 2015. The next edition will include a ballot for 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and director positions.

**Committee Reports:** Nomination Committee has a full slate of candidates, two for 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and four for directors. The 2016 Range Youth Camp will be held July 12-15 at Camp Mennoscah. Fick reported the Section had 59 members. He encouraged people to pay their dues. There were no nominees for Section Awards. KNRC will be presenting a Kansas Conservation Hero in 2016 and will add a Young Professional Award next year. The Section can nominate individuals for each award. The Adult Range Schools will be held August 2-4 at Camp Lakeside and August 16-18 at Camp Wood.

Shelly mentioned that the SRM Policy committee is working on a prescribed burning fact sheet.

**Old Business:** A volunteer is still needed for secretary/treasurer of the Section. Shelly suggested that Rory O'Connor be contacted. He is a graduate student at Kansas State University. A committee of Elmer Finck, Shelly Wiggam, and Mitch Greer was established to pursue interest and possible merger with the Oklahoma Section.

**New Business:** Is the Kansas Section interested in hosting the annual SRM meeting in Wichita in 2019? Possible joint hosting with the Oklahoma (probably not) and Nebraska were discussed. A motion was made by Shelly Wiggam and seconded by Jess Crockford that the Kansas Section was not interested in hosting the SRM meeting in 2019. The motion passed with no dissensions. After the vote the question was asked would we be willing to help if another section would like to host the meeting in Wichita. Decision was to wait and see what happens.

**Announcements:** A forage meeting is being held February 17 in Garden City hosted by Kansas State University and the Kansas Forage & Grassland Council. The Comanche Pool will be hosting coffee shop meetings February 11 in Coldwater, February 18 in Protection, and February 25 in Wilmore. Prescribed burning workshops are being held February 17 in El Dorado, February 19 in Manhattan, February 24 in Garnett, February 26 in Phillips County, and February 29 in Lawrence. See Keith Harmony if you want to receive continuing education credits for attending the KNRC. Shelly Wiggam indicated that proceedings from the path-burn workshop held last December are available online. The 2017 SRM annual meeting and trade show will be held in St. George, Utah on January 29 – February 2. The KNRC will be held January 26-27, 2017. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walt Fick

Appended: I've updated the Kansas Range Youth Camp information. I also added pictures and minutes from the October meeting. If you have any additional pictures, send them to me and I can add them. If you have any pictures that you think would make a good header or background image, I would be happy to use them. The web site is available at: <http://rangelands.org/kansas/>

Livia Olsen

### Drought Risk Management Strategies & Tools

Availability of forage and the risk of drought are always in the back of producers' minds as they consider their grazing and forage plans for the coming year. With 18 million acres devoted to pasture and perennial forages across Kansas, livestock producers take plenty of risks as they aim for both profitability and maintaining the long-term productivity of their grazing and haying lands.

In preparation for the 2017 grazing season, K-State Research and Extension is providing a series of workshops across Kansas to discuss range management concepts and risk management strategies. These events are supported through grant funding provided by USDA's Risk Management Agency and its Risk Management Education Partnerships Program.

Speaking at the program will be Dr. Monte Vandever, Extension Agricultural Economist at the KSU Southwest Research and Extension Center in Garden City, Dr. Walter Fick, Professor and Extension Specialist in range management, or Dr. Keith Harmony, Professor in range management at the Agricultural Research Center in Hays.

#### MEETINGS IN THE EAST (for Walt):

March 8 Williamsburg  
March 14 Cassoday  
March 15 Minneapolis

#### MEETINGS IN THE WEST (for Keith):

Feb. 28 Syracuse  
March 1 Ness City  
March 7 Stockton

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 5	Joint Meeting of KGLC/KPFA/KPBA, Fire Department, Burrton, KS
January 11	Prescribed Burning Workshop, Marysville, KS
January 13	2017 Cow-Calf Conference, Stanley Stout Center, Manhattan, KS
January 19	Prescribed Burning Workshop, Haskell University, Lawrence, KS
January 22-25	American Forage & Grassland Council Annual Meeting, Roanoke, VA <a href="http://afgc.org">http://afgc.org</a>
January 25	Prescribed Burning Workshop, Eureka, KS
January 26-27	Kansas Natural Resources Conference, Wichita, KS <a href="http://www.kansasnrc.org">http://www.kansasnrc.org</a>
January 26	Kansas Section, SRM Annual Meeting, 4:30 p.m. Wichita, KS
Jan. 29-Feb.2	Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Technical Training & Trade Show, St. George, UT <a href="http://rangelands.org/events">http://rangelands.org/events</a>
Feb. 2	Pollinator Habitats: Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation Series 1:00 PM Shawnee County Extension Office, Topeka, KS
Feb. 3	Prescribed Burning Workshop, Kingman, KS