

Vol. 25, No. 1

## **President's Report**

**Alex D. Miller**

As the winter snow melts off the worn grass of last year, the new blades of green will soon start poking through the old growth. Times have changed for our organization and it leaves many of us looking for new ideas in our workplace, on our ranches, classrooms, and in our research. The same thing is true for KSSRM. Kansas rangelands face old and new challenges in the next 50 years. Sound range science is more abundant now and continues to expand. Range science has given us many solutions to today's problems, but our audience has largely moved to urban areas or at least off the farm.

Who will advocate for sound range science in Kansas? If you are reading this newsletter, chances are you are an advocate for range management. In some way or another you have a connection to native rangelands and their conservation. Since the demographic has changed, maybe the 'obvious truth' isn't so obvious anymore.

I first learned about this organization my sophomore year after attending Range Youth Camp. It opened my eyes to a new field I did not know existed, Rangeland Management. My interest in ranching turned from strictly cattle to the intricate grass ecosystems that produced beef as a by-product. It did not need fertilizer. The grass didn't even need much soil to be productive. I learned that it was a largely self-sufficient system that just needed us to mimic its historic rhythms. In addition to learning about rangelands, I met like-minded mentors and friends who guided me into the career I now have today.

What are ways we can pass on our knowledge onto the next generation? How will we reach a society that is largely urban? KSSRM can use tools and activities we are already involved in. Kansas Range Youth Camp has been our flagship for over 50 years and the Adult Range School is a good way for us to spread the word to the public.

During the last meeting, those present expressed their interest in increasing our support for Kansas Envirothon.

In recent years, the Envirothon committee has chosen to include rangelands as one of the five categories presented at the regional and state competitions. If you are a member attending one of the regional competitions for Envirothon, I would encourage you to make a short presentation on Range Youth Camp.

In case you didn't know, KSSRM now has Facebook presence and a Gmail address. Please follow us @KsTrailboss on Facebook or e-mail us at [kssrmrangelands@gmail.com](mailto:kssrmrangelands@gmail.com). Please send me items you would like me to share or post on Facebook. Do you have a tour, research project, or range conservation practice you would like to promote? Please send them our way.

My other goal in the next two years is to find ways to advocate for rangeland education and conservation. Do you have any issues that we can advocate for thru partnership with other organizations? I would like to see us reach ranchers, landowners, public utilities, and the general public with awareness on important issues to Kansas rangelands.

As we outreach to the public, I would also like to see us address the needs of our members. How can this organization be more useful to your career or interests? The Board of Directors and I welcome your feedback and ideas for making this organization more useful to its members and to the rangelands of Kansas.

This fall we are planning to host a range tour or workshop for landowners and land managers in combination with our fall meeting. Stay tuned for more details.

As we start the new season, let's not wait for the old grass to go away. Let's revitalize the rangelands of Kansas like a prairie fire and bring the knowledge and advocacy to those who need to know what we have to offer.

### **In this Issue**

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

<http://rangelands.org/kansas>

Alex Miller	President
Mitchell Greer	First Vice-President
Vacant	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
Roger Tacha	Director
Toni Flax	Director
Vacant	Director
Vacant	Director
Vacant	Secretary/Treasurer
Shelly Wiggam	Past President
Livia Olsen	Webmaster
Aaron Ball	Historian
Walter Fick	Newsletter Editor

- Old Business – Shelly Wiggam
  - She confirmed that KSSRM will not host the 2021 meeting.
  - In August National SRM reached out to reconsider hosting
    - Albuquerque swooped in and took 2021
  - No contact from SRM for 2022 but they are looking for a potential site.
  - Will need to vote on bylaw changes for 2-year term by written vote printed in newsletter.
  - Working with SRM to get our website functional on the national site
  - James needed website for range school and Olivia made it work though our old website.
  - We had no fall field day.
  - KS Envirothon asked for another \$500 sponsorship
    - Very active group and they went to nationals last year
- Alex asked for discussion on sponsor of \$200 to Envirothon for 2019
  - Carol Baldwin said \$500 would get us on t-shirt
    - May help to get our name out there and increase membership
  - Envirothon explained further
    - High school event with multiple regions within the state, 5 stations (Fish, Range, Wildlife, Soil, and Forestry)
    - We have representatives at most of the regional events
- Should push to make announcements and advertise at these events for SRM Range Youth Camp – need to get students if investing \$500

### 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. 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 – January 31, 2019 at KNRC in Manhattan, KS

- Meeting called to order at 4:30pm by incoming president Alex Miller.
- Walt Fick read minutes from previous meeting held on 2/8/18
  - Approve minutes as read Dusty motioned voted to approve
- Certificate given to Shelly Wiggam for Presidential service

- Minutes cont'd on Page 3

- Motion to give \$500 to Envirothon with caveat that we will have representatives to recruit members. Motion seconded. Motioned passed.
- New Business
  - Asked for nominations for 2 board of directors, secretary/treasurer, and new 2<sup>nd</sup> VP
    - Question on what board of director role entails
    - Send nominations to Shelly or Alex
    - Vote will be sent out with newsletter very soon
  - Will be a bylaw vote in the newsletter for 2-year term for all roles
  - Try to use social media (Facebook) to help advertise the KS SRM Chapter
    - Alex offered to volunteer start and run Facebook site and then have president continue maintaining this in future
      - Need grad students, members, agency people to send pictures and success stories to share
    - Discussion on maybe using two types of social media and giving access to multiple people to add material.
      - There are sites that can hit all social media with one post
      - Talk to add a social media coordinator instead having president do it
    - Motion to make bylaw change to add social media coordinator
    - Motion to change to just create position of social media coordinator
    - No bylaw needs changed and use president as backup when needed
    - Moved and seconded; Motion passed unanimously
    - Coordinator added to nominations list
  - Suggestion to create a KS SRM email address
    - No further discussion
  - Work to develop a letter to help support problems we see
    - This letter would be signed by our group and maybe other groups then send it to those who can address
    - Letters would advocate for change and offer science and improved management
    - May need to look into these groups plan and see if they are not already trying some of our suggestions
    - Maybe have KDOT or County have a field day to show what they are doing
    - To talk to KDOT we would have to do it 5 times due to five regions – can't do just once
    - Table this idea for more research by the board of directors to investigate
  - General promotion of KS Range Youth Camp
    - Need to promote outside of the Ag realm
    - Native Plant Society did not know about this
    - Can use grassland heritage society and bridging the gap to help send out our advertisements
    - Have other suggestions for advertising send them to Alex  
Adding this to newsletter
    - Advertise youth camp at adult range camp
    - Advertise at Envirothon
    - Use K-State wildlife email list of all science teacher in state
    - Send K-State students to OK-State to compete with their team

- Discussion was held on ways to help promote SRM
  - Hold workshop in the fall to highlight people doing things right maybe focusing on soil health
    - Lots of people doing no-till but do not understand soil health on rangelands
  - Discussion on what would be best topic for this workshop
    - Maybe fire – biggest state deficit and cause of rangeland loss
    - Visit local producer who is trying numerous treatments of spraying, fire, mowing, etc. to control various species
  - Want producers to be involve you need to let them talk
  - Alex asked for a committee to help organize a tour day with a producer
  - Maybe work on growing season burn as this holds biggest benefit for woody suppression
  - Helping organization possibly – KGLC, KS Fire Science, and TNC
- Reports
  - Student affairs
    - 18 students at range youth camp last year
    - June 18-21 for 2019 Tues-Friday
  - Membership
    - Members were reminded to stay current on national dues
  - Awards
    - No one on the committee and no awards given
    - Inform Alex or Shelly if wanting to volunteer
    - May need to add an Excellence in Range Student Award to help recruit younger members
    - Use to have a Trail Boss award but has been absent for 10 years
  - Adult Range School
    - West camp had more than east (18-20 at each)
    - Held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August (Aug 6-8 for west camp at Ringneck Ranch) (East is Aug 20-22 at Camp Wood)
      - Scholarships available if you want to go
  - Financial Report
    - \$6415 (close) is down \$300 from normal
      - Income interest and dues
      - Cost Envirothon, new grazing sticks, PO box
  - Upcoming workshops or seminars
    - None
- Other Business
  - National AFGC – Meeting in 2022 held in KS (KC or Wichita)
  - Continuing Education Credits from SRM – Contact Keith if needed
- Dusty motioned to adjourn was seconded
  - Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm

## K-State students, faculty win awards at Society for Range Management annual meeting

Several K-State range scientists were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the field at the 2019 Society for Range Management annual meeting Feb. 10-14 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Walter Fick, professor of agronomy, was recognized as a fellow of the society and Rory C. O'Connor, doctoral student in the Division of Biology, was recognized as the Young Professional Conclave Outstanding Early Career award winner.

Troy Ocheltree, 2012 doctoral graduate in agronomy, received the Undergraduate Teaching and Early Career Undergraduate Teaching Award. Ocheltree is an assistant professor in the forest and rangeland stewardship department at Colorado State University.

Current graduate student Michael Bartmess, Division of Biology, received first place for the M.S. poster presentation for his poster titled: "Resprouting shrub encroachment in the tallgrass prairie: Assessing various prescribed fire and mechanical management strategies."

Jesse Nippert

# Kansas Range Youth Camp



**June 18 – 21, 2019**

Sponsored by:



**KANSAS SECTION**  
Society for Range Management



**If YOU are interested in plants, livestock, or wildlife, attend an educational event like no other in Kansas!**

**Participants:** Upcoming High School Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors

**Location:** Camp Mennoscah, Murdock, KS (in Kingman County)

**Learning:** Range Plant Identification, Plant Growth, Stocking Rate Determinations, Livestock Nutrition, Rangeland Wildlife Management, and much more!

**Special Items:** Field Trips, Steak Dinner

**Activities:** Swimming, Canoeing, Fishing, & Hiking

**Tuition:** \$250 per participant\*

\*Interested students should contact their local Conservation District, Extension Office, Farm Bureau office, livestock association, and/or other local business for possible financial assistance.



*Educating Kansas youth*

*for over 50 years!*



Registration deadline: May 15, 2019

Contact: James Ungerer, Kansas Range Youth Camp Chairman  
2504 SW Wexford Drive, Topeka, KS 66614— 785-223-3705— [james.ungerer@ks.usda.gov](mailto:james.ungerer@ks.usda.gov)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 24 Kansas Envirothon at Camp Wood, Elmdale, KS [see <https://kacdnet.org/kansas-envirothon/> for dates of regional competition]
- April 24-25 Eastern Kansas Grazing School, Ottawa, KS
- May 9 Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, Salina, KS
- May 28 Old World Bluestem Field Day, Neal, KS
- June 18-21 Kansas Range Youth Camp, Camp Mennoscah, Murdock, KS
- August 6-8 Mid/Shortgrass Range School, Ringneck Ranch, Tipton, KS
- August 12-14 Nebraska Grazing Conference, Kearney, NE
- August 20-22 Tallgrass Range School, Camp Wood, Elmdale, KS