



Arizona Section Newsletter

DECEMBER 2015



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President's Message:

The final touches are being put on the Section's Winter Meeting which will be held on January 6-8 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Yuma Arizona. The meeting will focus on the Colorado River, a very timely topic given the recent drought and regional water supply concerns. This is a great chance to travel to and explore the southwest region of our state.



The 2016 National Society for Range Management Meeting, Technical Training, and Trade Show will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas January 21 -February 4. I hope many Arizona members will be able to attend the meeting. Don't forget to take advantage of professional development and educational opportunities that allow you to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) at both the national and our section meetings.

A few updates: we finally heard back from the IRS regarding the Section's tax exempt status - and - they need a bit more paperwork. Thank you Willie and Ashley for following up on this, we are one step closer. Jamie Wages has stepped down as chair of the awards committee and we are looking for a volunteer to fill her position. Thank you for your contributions Jamie. Our new newsletter editor is Marques Munis! and we all thank John Kava for serving as editor.

Finally - a plea that must be repeated. Winter is Section election time. Please consider serving in an Arizona Section leadership position. If you are willing to serve and lead the Section for the next 2-4 years, please contact any one of the Section officers listed in this newsletter. We encourage anyone who has not served to consider this fun and rewarding opportunity. Don't forget - positions can be filled by those who have served previously, so if you have been wishing for a do-over, now is your chance. Remember - as an all-volunteer organization, AZSRM relies on volunteers!

Happy Holidays!

Mary Nichols

WINTER MEETING

What is 1450 miles long, home to one of the seven natural wonders of the world, and will be the topic of our 2016 winter meeting? The Colorado River, of course! This life-blood of the West flows through seven states, supplies water to more than 25 million people, and is responsible for irrigating 3.5 million acres of farmland. There are eleven National Parks along the river, most famously Grand Canyon National Park. On January 6th through 8th we will be meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Yuma for our annual winter meeting. Please register online or download a mail-in registration form at:

<https://srm.allenpress.com/srm/SECTIONMEETINGS/Arizona>

We will be featuring several speakers on riparian habitat restoration projects that have occurred in and around the Yuma area. We will be taking it outside and

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Board of Directors*President**Mary Nichols**Mary.nichols@ars.usda.gov**President-Elect**Christine Thiel**cathiel@fs.fed.us**Past President**Willie Sommers**wsommers@azland.gov**Vice President**James Heitholt**jheitholt@fs.fed.us**Secretary/Treasurer**Ashley Shepherd**AshleyS3@email.arizona.edu**Director North**Joelle Acton**jwalker6@email.arizona.edu**Director North**Chris Bernau**cbernau@email.arizona.edu**Director South**John Hall**jhall@blm.gov**Director South**Kelsey Hawkes**khawkes@email.arizona.edu**U of A Student President**Leland Sutter**lelandsutter@email.arizona.edu**ASU Student President**Jacque Evans**Jacqueyn.Evans@asu.edu***Winter Meeting...continued from page 1**

visiting a restoration area that is within walking distance from our hotel. We will be hearing about the Colorado River Delta Program, an effort by the Sonoran Institute to restore marsh, riparian, and estuarine habitat in the Colorado River Delta and reconnect the river with the sea. Check out this 10 minute YouTube video about this unique multi-national project:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TODV7FW746s&feature=youtu.be>

We will also have presentations about grazing management for riparian areas and wild burro herd management. The full agenda is shown below:

7:00 General Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 7th:

8:00-8:45 Registration**8:45 Opening Remarks****9:00-9:30 Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area – Charles Flynn****9:30-10:15 Restoration Treatments – Fred Phillips Consulting****10:15-10:30 Break and Walk out to Colorado River****10:30-11:30 Walking tour of Colorado River restoration projects, Fred Phillips Consulting****12:00-1:00 Lunch at Hilton Garden Inn****1:00- 1:45 Colorado River Delta Program – Karen Schlatter, Sonoran Institute****1:45-2:30 Cibola-Trigo Wild Burro Herd Management – John Hall, BLM****2:30-3:15 Riparian Area Grazing Management – Sandy Wyman, National Riparian Service Team****3:15-3:30 Break****3:30-4:15 Riparian Area Grazing Case Studies – Jeff Simms, BLM Tucson (tentative)****4:15-5:00 Riparian Mapping Project – Jack Triepke, USFS Southwestern Region (tentative)****5:30 Social Hour and Auction****7:00 Banquet and Awards**

Friday, January 8th:

8:00-8:30 Registration**8:30-9:15 Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program – Perri Benemelis, Central Arizona Project****9:15-10:00 Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges and Restoration Projects – Nate Caswell, USFWS****10:00-10:15 Break****10:15-11:00 Prehistoric Cultures and the Colorado River – Thomas Jones, BLM****11:00-11:45 Water Allocation Issues and the Colorado River - TBD****11:45-12:00 Closing Remarks**

Besides all these wonderful learning opportunities, you should take some extra time to visit and explore the Yuma area. You can find information about things to do in the area at VisitYuma.com. We also have a couple of our Board of Directors, Ashley and John Hall, that can give you the inside scoop on scenic places to visit. I look forward to seeing you all in January in Yuma!

Director North Report

I'm Joelle Acton, and along with Christopher Bernau, I am one of the Directors of the North. Winter is approaching us quickly in this half of the state. In fact, on Monday, November 16th, the weather forecasted snow down to 3,000 feet. Although, we did not receive the snow expected, I did look out my window and notice little frozen pebbles and several snow flurries.

The dropping temperatures mean the end of field season for many of us. So what do we do now? Unfortunately, unlike my tortoise Nitro (we named him that because he is so fast, it's true) we don't get to bury ourselves in a dark place and sleep through the winter months. Instead we get to organize, analyze and discuss all the exciting data we collected over the summer. After all, what good would the data be if we didn't organize and reflect on it? These reflections will help us plan effective rangeland conservation in coming years. It may also provide us additional insight in long term changes to the landscape that were not made through observation alone.

In addition to data analysis to fill the time that a busy field season once occupied, now is also a good time for professional development through the attendance of workshops and conferences. I was able to attend once such opportunity in Kingman where the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) sponsored a Monitoring and Prescribed Grazing Workshop.

Hopefully we have a good wet winter to bring in a bright and green year. In the meantime, stay warm and keep busy!



Nitro the Tortoise

Winter Meeting Election Notice

New officers will be elected at the winter meeting. Candidate bios and paper ballots will be available at that time. Although, we hope to see everyone there, we understand that some people will miss out. To make sure those people have a chance to vote in the upcoming election an email that includes candidate bios and an e-ballot, will be sent out prior to the meeting.



Yuma Landscape. Photo courtesy of Chris Bernau

Tierra Seca

We are nearing the end of the semester and looking back, Tierra Seca has been extremely busy!

Doug Tolleson hosted the club at the V Bar V October 2nd and 3rd and again November 6th and 7th. There was plenty of range monitoring to be had and a lot of good training with the new UA Extension made VGS software. Even with the close of the semester, we are hoping to make one more trip up north.

Research Insights in Semiarid Ecosystems (RISE) on October 17th was a huge success with a lot of great presentations. Tierra Seca hosted the breakfast and we were met with very generous donations. RISE is always a fun time to get together with experts in a wide array of fields.

November 13th, students traveled to the Ellkhorn Ranch and conducted monitoring in cooperation with the Alter Valley Conservation Alliance (AVCA). Many students had been there before and it was a great sight to see so many people working on the project. Rachel Turner and Kelsey Hawkes planned the logistics on the student side, while Frank Santiago of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) helped with transportation.

Looking forward, we are planning on sending students to the AZ SRM winter meeting in Yuma, AZ January 6th to 8th. In addition, the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) team has been studying very hard in preparation for the national SRM meeting in Corpus Christi, TX, January 31st to February 6th.

Tierra Seca is extremely lucky to have such a great network of professionals to provide important mentoring and support. We hope everyone has a great holiday season and we look forward to seeing what next semester has in store!



URME team members from left to right: Emilio Corella, Natalya Robbins-Sherman, Zach Winston, Joey Dahms and Morgan Gourley. Back: Josh Sutter and Leland Sutter



At the V Bar V Ranch. Doug Tolleson with a graduate student and three club members: Zach Winston, Leland Sutter, and Joey Dahms

SRM Student Chapter Activities at ASU

Hello Arizona Section Members of SRM,

My name is Jacquie Evans and I'm the President of the Arizona State University student chapter of the SRM. We're a main part of the WRSA (Wildlife and Restoration Student Association) at ASU on the Polytechnic campus, which also partners with The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society.

We have seven students including myself currently working hard preparing for the Plant Identification competition, several of whom will be also be taking the URME. We have one graduate student who hopes to present a poster at the meeting, as well. We are all looking forward to testing our skills at the national meeting in Corpus Christi in February!

We are looking for donations in order to fundraise for the annual meeting, and giving away prizes for donations included in the picture below. We are asking for a minimum donation of \$5. We are also currently working on printing calendars for 2016 that will include pictures taken by WRSA students and alumni. E-mail me if you are interested and I can let you know what the next steps are.



Jacquie Evans
Jdevans7@asu.edu

Calendar of Events

- December 27 - Jan 1 Arizona National Livestock Show, Phoenix
- January 7 - 8, 2016 Arizona Section SRM Meeting Yuma
- January 31 - February 4 SRM Annual Meeting, Corpus Christi, Texas
- July 16 - July 31 International Seminar on Rangeland Management (Idaho & Nevada)
<http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/rangeland-management-2016-brochure.pdf>



Arizona Section-Society For
Range Management
1195 Solar Heights Dr.
Prescott, AZ 86303

