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## University of Arizona Students Shine with 7 awards at International SRM Meeting in Denver

Story on Page 8



Back Row Left to Right: James Bradley, Wyatt Philabaum, Alex Binford-Walsh, Brian Koppy, Cameron Burleson, Mitchell Zieglansberger, Jacob Brown, William Gray. Middle Row Left to Right: Corwin Carroll, Tzirel Leiser. Front Row Left to Right: Austin Gonzales, Claire Bigelow-Lundin, Angel Vega, Grace Nykol, Dr. Larry Howery.

*#ArizonaRangelands*





Every year I pay my SRM dues, and every year I ask myself what value the SRM adds to my life. What does \$100 get me? The answer is: it gets me people. If you Google the “benefits of being a part of a professional organization”, networking is usually at the top of the list. I look forward to our annual meetings, knowing people well enough to call them for advice, and honing those leadership skills sitting on the Board of Directors.

The most important thing that I’ve realized in my short career as a range manager is that having excellent people skills goes a long way. My little brother is a range student at NMSU and I remind him that range management is a lot about managing people. We all know that without buy-in from land users and our colleagues, we won’t be able to accomplish anything. In doing our daily work and through our involvement with the SRM, we develop those valuable people skills.

I sat in a couple of committee meetings at the Denver meeting this year and a common talking point was

increasing membership numbers. While I agree that is a worthwhile and necessary task, at a Section level, I would instead like to focus on improving the quality of our connections and communication with each other as professionals.

As a Section, we have accomplished plenty in the past couple of years. We committed to supporting diversity, we approved a strategic plan, developed an outreach and marketing strategy, and updated our bylaws. I want to continue that momentum. My goals for the year are to improve our network of range and natural resources managers and ranchers, make information accessible, and engage our membership with technology. With Andrew Antaya’s expertise, we’ll have our website up and running very soon (before the next newsletter is published, fingers crossed). I want to work with our Newsletter Committee Chair, Kelsey Landreville, to investigate the feasibility of changing our newsletter delivery system. Finally, I hope to increase engagement with our membership and the public through social media by posting more content.

Since I was a part of Tierra Seca, I have met so many hardworking and dedicated range managers. A lot of them have sat or are currently sitting on our Board. I’m glad that they have made the AZSRM a priority. I’m especially thankful for those members that planned and executed last year’s meetings: Joshua Grace, JD Eddy, Andy Habgood, Alisha Phipps, Emilio Carrillo, Heather Dial, and Ashley Hall.

This year we will continue to recognize the valuable contributions of our Arizona Section membership to the field of range management and the Society. With the help of the Board of Directors, we will continue to develop a Section that meets our unique needs as range managers.

## Arizona Summer Meeting 2020

Planning is underway! Save the date for either August 19-21 or August 26-28, 2020.

Stay tuned for more details.





# Director North Report—*Andy Habgood*

First off, I would like to say thank you for letting me be a part of the SRM Board of Directors. I'm looking forward to the next couple years and the direction that the Arizona Section is headed. For those of us up in the higher elevations of Arizona, we are on the tail end of winter and looking forward to spring time and warmer temperatures. For those of you in the lower elevations, you are probably trying to hold on to the nice weather before it warms up for the summer. Either way, we are all looking for some more moisture, as all land managers always are. There seems to never be enough in the southwest.

As I have been analyzing last year's monitoring data that we collected, I have been playing around with the University of Arizona's Standardized Precipitation Index Explorer Tool. The section has been fortunate to have Mike Crimmins from the University talk at a couple of the winter meetings about this tool. In the past, we

have always used precipitation data from a local weather station to help us identify weather patterns that may or may not be tied to our monitoring data. Once the raw data was obtained, you had to input it into Microsoft Excel to attempt to analyze it, which required quite the Excel knowledge and patience, which I have found out I have less of both of those things every year that goes by. So I decided to play around with this tool and see what all the hype was about. I have found it to be very useful, and practically eliminates the need for running all those different Excel formulas. With just a few mouse clicks, you can select the exact location you want and get precipitation and SPI data for an area specifically tied to the location you chose. Then you can play around within the tool and separate precipitation and SPI by time of year, allowing you to separate different growing seasons.

**Continued on page 4...**



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# Director North Report—*Andy Habgood*

Continued from page 3...

This is where it got interesting for our neck of the woods around the Show Low area. I was able to split up our winter season, which typically provides moisture for our cool season grasses to get going in the spring, from the summer season, letting our warm season grasses get going in the summer. I ran this data since 1950-2020 and noticed something that I was fairly disappointed with, especially in the last 20 years. The overlying theme was that you can't have both, just like our parent's told us all when we were growing up. By both, I mean a good winter and a good summer. You can, but it is the rare situation. It seemed to be that you can only have one or the other, further complicating the grass growing business that most of us are in. I encourage you to play around with the SPI Explorer Tool and see what you can do with it (<https://uaclimateextension.shinyapps.io/SPItool/>). If I could

figure out how to use the tool, you can too since I am generally against anything having to do with technology. I promise this will be the only technology report I write.

With that being said, it is all of our jobs to stay adaptive, as things change year to year, month to month, and even day to day. After all, you can't play with mother nature. She is the definition of one of my favorite sayings "It is what it is". So it is our job, as managers and producers, to try and get along with her. After all, we all have the same job, produce palatable forage and healthy ecosystems, and feed the world by harvesting that forage with livestock for generations.

Listen, Learn, Adapt,

Andy Habgood

*Thank You*  
*to all of our Sponsors & Donors that helped support our Winter Meeting!*



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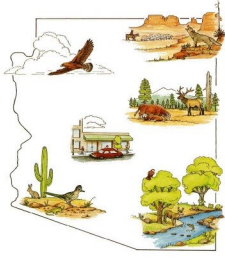
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# Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth

July 20 - July 24, 2020 James 4-H Camp

## Highlights

- Learn lifelong skills and create lifetime friendships.
- Explore and study Arizona's forests, streams, rangelands, soils, plants, and wildlife with expert instructors who will intrigue and challenge you!
- Lots of small group learning activities in the forests of the Prescott National Forest.
- Gain hands-on experience with hi-tech equipment, field testing, data collection and project design.

## Details

**Dates:** July 20-24, 2020

**Where:** James 4-H Camp  
between Prescott & Jerome

**Tuition:** \$200 per student (Partial financial assistance is available. Please indicate on application if assistance is needed.)

Open to all youth entering **grades 8-12** in the fall of 2020.

**Limit:** 35 participants.

**Deadline for Applications:**  
Postmarked by **May 1, 2020** and include \$100 deposit.

Applicants will be notified of selection results no later than June 1, 2020.

Upon notification of acceptance, the remaining \$100 fee is to be paid unless other aid has been requested and awarded.

An exciting opportunity for you to explore the great outdoors and experience the thrill of a unique adventure. The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth is an interactive camp bringing together the latest in science and natural resource technology.

Mingus Mountain, in the Prescott National Forest, is the setting for learning about water, soils, plants, and other natural resources. You will discover nature by conducting experiments and completing outdoor projects. A major focus will be on natural resource basics and management techniques. This is a hands-on workshop! Youth will have many opportunities to discuss natural resource issues. Various group activities such as fishing, hiking, swimming, volleyball & horseshoes will be available during your free time.



## Eligibility

Youth entering grades 8-12 in the fall of 2020 are eligible to apply. Youth must have an interest and desire to learn more about the environment in which we live. No applicant will be denied attendance because of financial need. Selection is made based on the merit of the application.

## How To Apply

Complete the application or type the following on a single sheet of paper: Name, address, phone number, grade entering in the Fall of 2020, email address, and adult t-shirt size. Answer the following questions: 1) Explain why you would like to attend this camp. 2) Describe your interests and activities related to natural resources. 3) Describe any other special interests, hobbies, and involvement in community or school activities. 4) If appropriate, indicate the need for financial assistance.

Mail application with **\$100 deposit made out to NRCWAY**, by May 1<sup>st</sup> to:

Kim McReynolds, Workshop Director,  
AZ Section Society for Range Management  
450 S. Haskell, Suite A, Willcox AZ 85643

**Questions:** Contact Kim at 520-766-3602 or [kimm@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:kimm@cals.arizona.edu)

## Location & Accommodations

James 4-H Camp is located on a secluded 88 acre wooded site at an elevation of 6,500 feet on Mingus Mountain in the Prescott National Forest. Participants will be housed in rustic cabins with a central bathhouse consisting of modern bathrooms and showers.



**56<sup>th</sup> Annual Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth**  
**Application for the July 20-24, 2020 Workshop**

<http://azrangelands.org/nrcway/NRCWAYflyer.pdf>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size (adult): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Entering in Fall 2020: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Explain why you would like to attend this workshop:

Describe your interest and activities related to natural resources:

Describe any other special interests, hobbies and involvement in community or school activities:

If appropriate, indicate the need for partial financial assistance (please be specific as to the reason it is needed):

Application must be **postmarked by midnight May 1, 2020 along with a \$100 deposit made payable to AZSRM-NRCWAY**. Applicants will be notified of selection results no later than June 1, 2020. Upon notification of acceptance, the remaining \$100 is due unless partial financial aid has been requested and awarded. Enrollment is limited to 35 participants.

Mail Application and deposit to: Kim McReynolds, Workshop Director  
Society for Range Management - Arizona Section  
450 S. Haskell Ave., Suite A, Willcox, AZ 85643

Questions: Contact Kim McReynolds at (520) 766-3602 or [kimm@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:kimm@cals.arizona.edu)



# 2020 High School Youth Forum (HSYF)

In 1966, the SRM recognized a need to involve youth with the range-related activities at the annual meeting. As a result, each year since this time, the SRM has sponsored a forum at the high school level to provide an opportunity for deserving high school students to learn about rangelands and other related resources. The first year that the Arizona Section sponsored a student to the forum was in 1987. Students are selected based on their participation at NRCWAY.

The HSYF this year included 22 students from 11 sections. The week was jam packed with educational opportunities. The program began on Sunday evening with an orientation and students practicing for their presentations. Each section delegate is responsible for researching a range related topic and presenting their information in a 6-8 minute presentation.

Monday was the ecological tour with a visit to the Lowery Ranch to learn about the Piedmont Tallgrass Prairie, riparian areas, and ranch infrastructure; lunch and a presentation at the Plains Conservation Center; and a tour of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. The day ended with a professional interaction dinner and more practice on presentations for the next day.

Tuesday was the highlight of the week with the student presentations. Talks varied from cheatgrass to feral horses. Rachel Noble was the Arizona delegate at this years' forum. Rachel did a great job with her talk on fire management.

The rest of the week was spent with visiting poster sessions and the trade show, attending symposia on different subjects, a business meeting, and the awards presentations. Student evaluations show that they enjoyed the forum, learned new things, and made life-long new friends.

## Thank You

Dear Arizona Section,

I would like to personally thank you for your sponsorship. Without your generosity and my experience at NRCWAY (Natural Resources Workshop for Arizona Youth) I would not have gotten an opportunity to come to Denver for the 2020 SRM conference, or anything like it for that matter.

This week I learned so much about rangeland health and care. I also got to see firsthand the operations and practices of a ranch. Coming from the city, it has been very interesting to learn how people from all over the United States live.

Again, thank you so much for this opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Noble, Phoenix, AZ  
Arizona HSYF Delegate 2020



*Rachel at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.*



*Rachel Noble at the speaking podium following her presentation in Denver, CO*

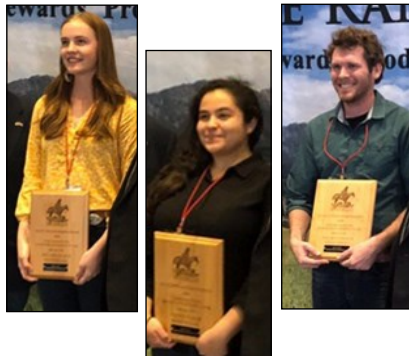


# University of Arizona Students Shine (Front Page)

The University of Arizona Range Program (aka Ecology, Management, and Restoration of Rangelands Program) is a rapidly growing program that has tripled its undergraduate numbers in just 2 years. The University of Arizona's Rangeland Management club (Tierra Seca) had 14 undergraduate and 5 graduate students who attended the 2020 International Society for Range Management (SRM) meeting in Denver, Colorado from February 16-20. Undergraduate students participated in events like the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME), the Plant Identification competition, the Rangeland Cup competition, and Extemporaneous Speaking. Several students also presented posters on their research in the undergraduate and graduate sessions (Flavie Audoin, Cameron Burleson, Justin Johnson, Scott Jones, Brandon Mayer, and Austin Rutherford). During the conference, students attended talks, symposiums, and workshops to help develop their practical and hands-on knowledge of a wide variety of rangeland related topics.

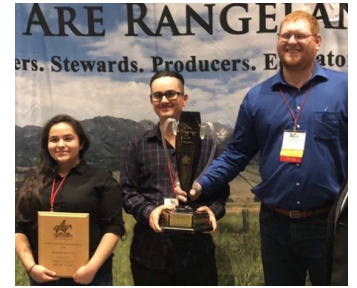
The 2020 International SRM meeting culminated into the best year in the history of the UA's Range Program as Tierra Seca came home with the following awards:

- **1st Place Team in the *Collegiate Trail Boss Award*** (out of > 25 colleges and universities!)
- **1st Place Team in the *URME competition*** (out of 25 teams!)
- **2nd, 3rd, and 4th Place Individuals in *URME competition*** (out of 189 students! -- **Cameron Burleson, Tzirel Leiser, Alex Binford-Walsh, respectively**)



- **1st Place Individual in the *Extemporaneous Speaking competition*** (out of 35 students! -- **Tzirel Leiser**)

- **1st Place Team in the *Rangeland Cup competition*** (out of 10 teams! - **Tzirel Leiser, William Gray, and James Bradley**)



The Collegiate Trail Boss award is presented to the university or college that generates the highest aggregate score for competitions at collegiate student activities during the SRM annual meeting. **It is the highest honor that a university team can be awarded at this international conference.** This is the first time the UA's Range Program has won this prestigious award! The URME provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to demonstrate higher order learning skills and synthesis knowledge of the art and science of rangeland management. Students who score in the top 10% of individuals are eligible for status as a Certified Professional in Rangeland Management (CPRM) and are exempt from taking the challenging CPRM exam. The Rangeland Cup competition promotes critical thinking and cooperative, collaborative work on current topics and/or topics of historical importance to rangeland ecology and management. The undergraduate Extemporaneous Speaking contest entails each student competitor to select 1 of 3 provided topics related to range management. They then have 2.5 hours to develop a 5-7 minute presentation on that topic.

Students were able to attend this year's conference with creative fund raising efforts and through the help of their dedicated coaches, advisors, and officer team: Dr. Larry Howery, Elena Dosamantes, Sarah Noelle, Justin Johnson, Brandon Mayer, Brian Koppy, Cameron Burleson, Mitchell Zieglgansberger, and Tzirel Leiser.

Congratulations to all of our students who took the time to prepare and compete in these SRM contests and events! A special thanks goes out to Dr. Phil Ogden -- his generous support from the Ogden Scholarship helped our students attend the meeting!





# 2019 Range Manager of the Year

## Dennis Moroney (47 Ranch)

It is with great pleasure to award Dennis Moroney and the 47 Ranch with the 2019 Range Manager of the Year Award in recognition of his use of range management principles, science, creativity, and dedication, as well as the impact his enthusiasm, compassion, and teaching has had on other range professions in Arizona.

The 47 Ranch is located in McNeal, AZ and consists of 40 sections of Desert Grassland, rugged mountainous Chaparral, and Oak Woodland, ranging from 4,000-6,500 ft elevation. The Ranch consists of 23% private land, 67% state trust lands, and 10% BLM land. Dennis has had a conservation plan with the NRCS since 2003, works closely with AZGFD, and maintains a good working relationship with ASLD.

Dennis maintains a conservative stocking rate of Criollo cattle and sheep, and incorporates flexibility by retaining steers depending on conditions. Frequent pasture rotations, in addition to resting every pasture during the growing season at least every third year, has resulted in an improvement in species diversity and cover over the last 18 years. By matching his Criollo cattle genetics to the landscape, supplements (such as molasses) have not been needed for the past 7-8 years.

Improvement projects on the 47 Ranch have increased management flexibility and have included: erosion control structures, pasture subdivision, extended waterlines, new drinkers and storage, improved water catchments, solar wells, mesquite herbicide trials, restoration reseeding with native species and soil amendments using spoiled hay mulch with animal impact.

Dennis processes steers at the University of Arizona Food Products and Safety Lab, where he tenderness-tests every slaughtered beef. He markets directly to the consumer through farmers markets, food co-ops, small local grocers, and local restaurants. The meat is sold as “All natural, grass (range) fed, no hormones, no antibiotics, no grain.”

With an appreciation for science and a good relationship with the UA Food Products Safety Lab and School of Natural Resources and the Environment, Dennis has had the pleasure of working with Ph.D. student, Flavie Audion, who has a background in agriculture and meats. Dennis and Flavie are conducting research on grazing behavior, diet selection, and meat quality of the Criollo cattle. Over the last 2 years, 202 head of cattle have been fitted with Knight GPS Tracking Collars, which has provided insights into grazing behavior and cattle use of the landscape. In addition, fecal samples have been collected monthly for NUTBAL and DNA analysis which provides information on what the cattle are eating depending on the season and by gender. This research has informed animal selection criteria and grazing management on the 47 Ranch.

Dennis is a member of the AZ Section SRM, Quivira Coalition, Cochise Graham Cattle Growers, Holistic Management, Arizona & Cochise Cooperative Extension Advisory Board, Cochise County Natural Resources Advisory Board, Arizona Land and Water Trust Board, and Baja Arizona Sustainable Agriculture. He has hosted many field days, tours, student groups, and university field trips. Dennis has also taught at Cochise College, Yavapai College, and Prescott College.

Congratulations, Dennis and the 47 Ranch crew!



# 2019 Awards Recipients

## James Heitholt— *Outstanding Young Professional*

The Arizona Section proudly recognizes James Heitholt as the 2019 Outstanding Young Professional. James is a graduate of the University of Arizona, and is now the Range Program Manager for the Coronado National Forest in southern Arizona. He also served as the President of the Arizona Section SRM in 2017.



James is a strong leader who uses innovation, creativity, and collaboration to accomplish progressive actions. He is responsible for developing more efficient ways to monitor using mobile technology and designing an electronic

form for inspections of rangeland water sources that has been used to collect required information for state-based water rights claims. James is also responsible for acquiring field tablets for all range personnel on each district while still abiding by Forest Service policy.

The Southwest Regional Office of the Forest Service recognizes his expertise in monitoring and called on James to update the Regional Rangeland Analysis and Monitoring Guide. James was instrumental in developing “monitoring week” for the Coronado National Forest, in which each year the entire Forest range staff come together to complete vegetation monitoring by spending one week camped out on one of the five districts each year.

He was also recognized by the Regional Office in 2019 with an Innovation Award for spear-heading the effort to consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the entire grazing program on the Coronado National

Forest in a programmatic way instead of by individual allotments. This has required excellent communication skills to convey the science behind sustainable grazing practices that can allow for recovery of the 20 listed T&E species that occur on the Forest.

He does all these things while retaining a wicked good sense of humor and is a favorite around the lunch table at the Supervisor's Office of the Coronado. He is an outstanding young range management professional and very deserving of this award. His technical expertise is well developed, but he shines in his ability to work with others and make things happen on the ground. James has a bright future and will continue to contribute to not only the Forest Service but also to the profession of range management.

## Jim Koweek— *Professional & Technical Guidance*

Jim Koweek has well over 25 years of working with native plants and seed in Southeast Arizona. He is the owner and operator of Arizona Revegetation and Monitoring Co. which specializes in reseeding projects, native seed sales and rangeland monitoring for the mid elevations of the Southwest. Jim assists the NRCS and Santa Cruz NRCD by reading 20+ transects yearly. He served as resident expert in the Soils, Ecological Sites, and Plant ID Workshop with UA Extension, SCNRCD, and NRCS. Jim also established and classified soils on 55+ Key Ar-



reas within the Tonto National Forest and performs an array of work on Fort Huachuca. Most of all, Jim is always available to share his expertise and wealth of knowledge with anyone who needs help!





# In Memory of Kelly Bedson

It is with great sadness to inform the membership of the passing of a truly wonderful rangeland steward, Kelly Bedson. Kelly passed away peacefully and surrounded by her family after battling breast cancer for the past couple years.



Kelly was the Rangeland Management Specialist on the Payson Ranger District of the Tonto National Forest. She started as a Pathways program student in 2013, and has spent the last six years dedicated to her work, coworkers, friends, ranchers, and community members alike.

During her time with the Forest Service, she completed Range EA's on 9 allotments, a sheep driveway, countless CE's, updated all the NRM records, revamped 41 allotment maps, and had templates and examples for just about everything.

She did so much more. She made a huge impact on those fortunate enough to know her. She was a tremendous asset to Tonto's range program along with being a great friend to those who worked with her. She always had a smile and a helping

hand for everyone and was one of those people we all wanted to be around. A huge hole has been left in our hearts, with Tonto's range program, and within the rangeland community.

Kelly was certainly one of the most positive and optimistic individuals in our community. She was keen to understanding other's points of view, and saw opportunities for improvements and collaborations. She showed a willingness and enthusiasm to participate in discussions about contentious issues, such as drought management, in order to find a pathway forward that addressed concerns of all involved.

In 2018, the Arizona Section SRM held a contest to design a new logo for the Section. While there were many participants who submitted design ideas, Kelly's designs won by a landslide. In those designs we will cherish the memory of her.

The Tonto will be planting a pollinator garden in her memory at the Payson Ranger District office. In addition, the USDA Forest Service Washington Office presented an award in her memory at SRM 2020 Conference in Denver during the Forest Service family meeting event.

She will be greatly missed by all of us, but would want you all to know how much she enjoyed working with everyone. Her husband said that her last years with the Forest Service was the happiest she has ever been.

In memory of Kelly, Jessica Orozco, and countless others we have lost from the rangeland community, remember that as rangeland stewards, we are not just friends and colleagues, but family. Take care of each other.



# 2020 Student Scholarship Recipients

At the Annual Meeting of the Arizona Section of the Society for Range Management in Wickenburg, Arizona on 23 January 2020, recipients of Arizona Section's Outstanding Undergraduate at Arizona State University and University of Arizona were announced, as was the recipient of The Habgood Scholarship in Rangeland Management.

The Outstanding Undergraduate Student Scholarships recognize 2 outstanding students in a degree program emphasizing rangeland management at both ASU and UA. The Habgood Scholarship in Rangeland Management provides financial support to a UA undergraduate student who is dedicated to the management of rangelands and has the character and perseverance to continue their career in rangeland management. After the Annual International SRM meeting in Denver, the S. Clark Memorial Scholarship was awarded which recognizes the undergraduate student at either the UA or ASU who achieves the highest rank score for a competitive contest at the Parent Society meeting. A summary of the award recipients follows -- please congratulate each of these students the next time you see them. Many thanks to the Arizona Section, the S. Clark Memorial Scholarship fund, and The Habgood Scholarship fund for supporting our next generation of rangeland scientists and managers!

The recipient of the **Outstanding Undergraduate Student Scholarship from Arizona State University** was Emma Weiss. Emma was born and raised in Macon,



Georgia, one hour southeast of Atlanta. She moved to the Phoenix area in 2009 with her family and completed her secondary education in Gilbert. She is currently enrolled in the Natural Resource Ecology program at ASU with an emphasis in Rangeland Management and

is scheduled to graduate December 2020. Emma is also the secretary/treasurer and co-interim student chapter VP of the SRM for the Wildlife and Restora-

tion Student Association (WRSAs). Emma explored many avenues before happening upon the rangeland track. She knew biology was her main interest and it developed over several years from veterinary medicine to horticulture until finally she found a home with other students and professionals who shared her interests and philosophies. Emma is now happily finishing her degree where she belongs with many credits to the amazing people around her. Emma received a \$300 check from the Arizona Section of SRM for her outstanding accomplishments.

The recipient of the **Outstanding Undergraduate Student Scholarship from the University of Arizona** was William Gray. Mr. Gray

has spent most of his life in Florence, AZ. He is the first in his family to attend college. Will was also recently selected as the outstanding graduating senior in Ecology, Management,



and Restoration of Rangelands (EMRR) Program at the University of Arizona. He says he chose the EMRR program "because of how all aspects of ecosystems were brought together in the range program", and he "especially loved the botanical aspect, and became inspired by a botany class taught by Dr. Steve Smith and a rangeland plant communities class taught by Dr. Mitch McClaran." He is the former Treasurer in Tierra Seca Club (UA Student Range Club) and has been an active participant on the Plant ID and Undergraduate Range Management Exam (AKA "URME") teams for the last 2 years including the 2020 1st Place URME Team (out of 25 teams) and, most recently, the 2020 1st Place Range Cup Team (out of 15 teams)! Will's collective efforts as a competitor in 3 competitions (i.e., Plant ID, URME, Rangeland Cup) helped to propel the UA's competitive teams to take home the highly coveted Collegiate Trailboss Award for the first time in the history of the UA EMRR Program. In the future, Will would like to be a botanist with the Forest Service. Will received a \$300 check from the Arizona Section of SRM for his outstanding accomplishments.





# 2020 Student Scholarship Recipients

Tzirel Leiser (AKA "TZ") received the **S. Clark Martin Memorial Scholarship** for earning the highest rank score among all Arizona Section students competing in undergraduate contests at the annual International SRM meeting in Denver, CO. As a first-time contestant, TZ scored 1st out of 35 contestants from the US, Canada, and Mexico in the Extemporaneous Speaking Contest. In addition, TZ placed 3rd out of



189 students in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) -- this was truly an outstanding feat given that this was the first time she had taken the URME! Her outstanding score contributed to the UA URME team winning 1st Place among 25 schools in the highly competitive contest. To add to her accolades, TZ also led the 3-person team that won 1st place (out of the 15 teams) in the Rangeland Cup competition (again, another 1st for the UA's Range Program). TZ's collective efforts as a competitor in 4 competitions (i.e., Plant ID, URME, Rangeland Cup, and Extemporaneous Speaking) helped to propel the UA's competitive teams to take home the prestigious SRM Collegiate Trailboss Award. TZ will receive a \$300 check from the Arizona Section of SRM (via the S. Clark Martin Memorial Scholarship) for her outstanding accomplishments.

Cameron Burluson was selected by the University of Arizona faculty for the 3rd time to receive the **Habgood Scholarship in Rangeland Management**. Cameron is a junior studying Rangeland Management at the University of Arizona and is currently the vice president of Tierra Seca. She has been an active member of the URME and Rangeland Plant Identification teams for the past 2 years. Cameron placed 2nd on the challenging URME in 2020 (out of 189 students!) and was the highest scorer on the 2020

1st Place UA URME Team! Cameron says she has always been interested in our natural world and learning about better ways to conserve it, and she "could not have found a better fit than the



UA's EMRR program." She hopes to pursue a career with a federal agency as a Rangeland Management Specialist, but anything that allows her to contribute to the improvement of rangelands will make her happy. Cameron's collective efforts as vice president of Tierra Seca and as a competitor in 2 undergraduate competitions (i.e., Plant ID and URME) helped to propel the UA's competitive teams to take home the highly coveted SRM Collegiate Trailboss Award along with her teammates cited in this article and in another article in this newsletter. Cameron received a \$2000 check from the Habgood Scholarship in Rangeland Management fund for her outstanding accomplishments.

## And Lastly, a Shout Out to Andrew Brischke!

Arizona SRM President Erin Thomas thanks now-Past-President Andrew Brischke at the 2020 Winter Meeting for his contributions and service to the AZ Section SRM. Thanks Andrew, and Cheers!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2020

**\*\*KEEP IN MIND THE POSSIBILITY FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS TO BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED DUE TO CURRENT PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS\*\***

- April 07 AZ/UT Range Livestock Workshop - Hurricane & Orderville, UT  
- contact: Andrew Brischke at [Brischke@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:Brischke@cals.arizona.edu)
- April 23 Beginner Farmer/Rancher Workshop - Peach Springs, AZ  
- contact: Andrew Brischke at [Brischke@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:Brischke@cals.arizona.edu)
- June 14-16 National Grazing Land Coalition Summer Bus Tour, Nebraska  
July 16-18 Arizona Cattle Growers Association annual meeting  
July 20-24 Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth

## 2021

- February 07-11 Society for Range Management Conference, Boise, ID



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