

Arizona Section Newsletter



September 2011



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President's message:

Greetings,

First of all, I'd like to thank all of you who participated in the Summer Meeting and to especially thank Doug T. and his committee for putting together a well-rounded session. The diversity of participants was exceptional. There were students, both college and high school, Extension specialists, professors, agency personnel, ranchers, and sponsors. The meals furnished by NRCWAY, ASU and U of A were well organized and delicious. Excellent variety, though I thought I overheard Mitch saying he'd make sure there was gravy for the hash browns next year. Bopper's BBQ on Thursday night was unsurpassed.

Your participation in the general membership meeting invited good discussion and humor. Dr. Ruyle asked those of you who represent agencies that have vacant grazing allotment available to consider terms of use to extend 7-10 years or more to make financing of structural improvements more economically feasible.

NRCWAY camp participation was down this year with only 21 students. The counselors would like to have 35 students. NRCD sponsorship was diminished this year. I encourage all of you to contact your NRCD Chairperson and explain the benefits of our youth attending this outstanding educational opportunity. If they



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This year's summer meeting was outstanding. The informality of camping onsite, great meals cooked on camp stoves and Dutch ovens, and clear, cool mountain air all made for a fun, yet informative time. I only wish there was more free time to have met and talked with those of you I still don't know. Next year. Which brings me to the subject of this short paragraph; Doug certainly set the bar high for next summer's meeting, and it will be my responsibility to organize that gathering. Thanks to Willie Sommers efforts, he has created a table of all past meetings, winter and summer, which contains locations and topics covered. I have a few ideas as to location and agenda items, but I certainly welcome any suggestions from you. I would like to form a small committee for the summer meeting, so if you can help, let me know.



Mike Hemovich
VP AZ Section SRM

President's Message....continued

offer financial support and students, please follow through all the way to camp. It can't be a one-time conversation. Sponsorship is not limited to NRCDs. Ranchers and others are welcome to provide scholarships and other support. Check with your National Forest to see if there are funds available from Kids in the Woods programs.

Alvin Whitehair brought in Bill Inman of the Padre Mesa Demonstration Ranch who spoke about Navajo Ranching, the ranch he manages and the training opportunities available. VP Mike Hemovich has the address for training videos.

The Board of Directors is following through on a letter to the Forest Service Regional Forester, Corbin Newman, which supports the AZ Cattle Growers request for his consideration to improve forest and rangeland health on the National Forests in Arizona.

Paid Membership numbers are down this summer. There were many thoughts in the discussions including current economics, lack of support from agency heads and supervisors, and people not realizing the value of the Society in their professional careers. The National organization has supported us by providing Continuing Education credits. The Section is where peer review occurs as we exchange information on what we're involved in. This is where we grow as good stewards of the land.

Don L.

NOTICE OUR NEW LOOK???

I hope you notice a slightly different look to your SRM AZ Section newsletter. As the new editor, I would like to receive as much input from you, as I can handle. To start things off, I would like each issue to have a new and different banner at the top of the front page, submitted by members. This picture should capture the "office" we work in, rangeland scenes from your perspective. Let's see what you got! Also, I hope we can start a new section featuring members, and any new, old, and or different range work they are, or have been involved with. Time and again, at the summer meeting I heard people say there just wasn't enough time to catch up with people. I hope this "member feature" section will give a few the opportunity to let the rest of us know what they are doing. If you are interested please let me know. If I don't get any submissions I may be giving you a call!

Finally, the deadline for the November newsletter is October 20, yikes!

John Kava

I received my new membership card, did you?

In collaboration with SRM Headquarters, the SRM membership cards have been revised and will be distributed to all new & renewing members. These new cards contain your unique membership number along with a place for your signature. Bring these to official Society events and reference them when your membership is due for renewal. We appreciate your support of the Society, and look forward to your continued participation.

Please keep your membership info up to date to ensure you receive communications from the AZ Section SRM and Parent Society.

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Directors Reports

“I don’t have bad hair days, I have hair adventures!” That’s a saying I came up with years ago when I found myself trying to get my hair to do something it didn’t want to do. I finally decided to stop fighting nature and to look forward to whatever was in store for me that day.

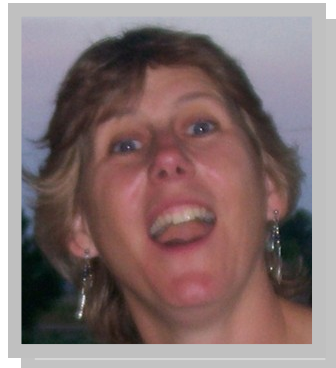
That’s turned out to be a pretty good strategy for me, regardless of the situation. I can’t say I follow it every day but I certainly do the majority of the time.

Now that my term as Director North is coming to a close, I have to say that it’s been a great adventure and one that I encourage each of you to embark upon! Please don’t hesitate to volunteer for this position. It’s a great way to get to know fellow SRM members as well as to serve them. Previous board experience isn’t necessary; a willingness to learn and help out the greater cause is!

So when someone comes knocking, or calling, or emailing, or texting, to ask you if you’re interested in becoming the next Director North, please consider saying: YES!

It’s been my pleasure to serve you and I hope I’ve met your expectations. You haven’t seen the last of me – I’ll continue to come to meetings and help wherever I can.

Clare Hydock
Director North



One of my better ‘hair adventures’!!

Feast, famine, and big fire this spring in southern Arizona; Monument Fire in the Huachuca Mts, Horseshoe II/Chirichua Mts, and Murphy Fire west of I-19. While all were human-caused, weather over the last 18 months made them especially severe; 2010 was very wet with ~20” of precip. Then we had no moisture, zero, zip, *nada*, from Jan to June. Build-up of grass coupled with freeze-killed oaks and mesquites made ideal fire conditions when the matches were struck. Border Patrol and Park Service speculate that Monument was started by *narcos* as diversionary tactics to cover drug shipments which continue with regular frequency in my area. We wonder if grazing could have reduced fire severity? The Monument fire started right at the Mexican border and took off north and east on rugged terrain that had not been grazed for a long time. Once it jumped northeast over the mountain and spread down canyons into the *bajada*, the fire had heavy stands of Lehmans to burn, consuming fifty homes. Nature has an amazing capacity to humiliate its most acquisitive species, *Homo sapiens*. Just when things were looking up, moisture, cattle prices, and range conditions --- WHAMO! ---. The good news we’ve had 7” precip since July 1st!

Richard Collins
Director South

Winner of Martin Scholarship Raffle Announced at Winter Meeting

The winners of the raffle to support the S. Clark Martin Memorial Scholarship were announced at the Annual Winter Meeting in Mesa on 28 January 2011. The prizes were very generously provided by Wink Crigler of the X-Diamond Ranch (<http://www.xdiamondranch.com>) near Springerville, AZ.

The S. Clark Martin Memorial Scholarship was established to support undergraduate and graduate students who are active in the Arizona Section of the Society for Range Management. Specifically, the scholarships recipients are selected based on their performance in contests (plant identification, undergraduate range management exam, oral presentations, and poster presentations) at the annual meeting of the parent Society for Range Management. These activities are consistent with S. Clark Martin's interest in stimulating students to become active in the Society.

The first prize of ½ grass-fed beef from X-Diamond Ranch went to Mitch McClaran from the University of Arizona. The second prize of two-nights lodging in an X-Diamond Ranch cabin went to Glen Reed of Williams, AZ.

McClaran claimed his prize in mid-April 2011. He brought his wife Susan and in-laws Roger and Diane Jorstad to the ranch for a wonderful night lodging in the Fisherman Cabin. They all enjoyed the beautiful setting along a South Fork of the Little Colorado River where trout fishing is practiced and trout habitat is activity and successfully encouraged. They were most impressed with tree-thinning activities to remove excess fuel. This work was especially prescient in light of the Wallow fires that burned so much of the country around the ranch later in the summer.

The grass-fed beef has anchored many wonderfully delicious meals at the McClaran household, all expertly prepared by Susan McClaran.



Wink Crigler congratulates
Mitch McClaran



View up-stream at X-Diamond Ranch showing
tributary to the Little Colorado River and the tree-
lining results (slopes on right side).

Membership Database

SRM has updated its membership database. As a result you have been assigned a new login and password. Whenever prompted to login, you will need to enter your numeric SRM member number as your user ID, and your last name as your password. Your password can be changed in the member profile area after you login. Please also note that your current member demographics, including your contact information and section affiliation(s), can be viewed and edited within the member profile area.

Plant ID contest

—Thanks for making our first a best!

At the AZ SRM Winter meeting, Young Professionals came up with a great idea for our summer meeting, a plant identification contest. What a great way to include students and professionals interested in brushing up on their skills. Andrew Brewski took the lead and off we were, creating our first, of many, plant contests. Months later, lots of planning and some haphazard plant collections, we opened the door. Nine participated loaded with reference materials and an entire day to identify mounted and local plants. On Friday afternoon we handed out our prizes: First place (belt buckle), Anastasia Rabin, University of Arizona student, and Second place (illuminated hand lens), Amber Dalke, University of Arizona student. Congratulations!



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The summer meeting kicked off on Wednesday August 3 as ~35 people toured the upper Verde River, led by Al Medina from the Rocky Mountain Research Station. Later that evening we had our annual membership meeting followed by a fundraiser sponsored by Cargill Animal Nutrition to benefit the Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth (NRCWAY) committee.



Bill Inman from the Navajo's Padre Mesa Demonstration Ranch spoke to us about his ranching educational programs there. On Thursday the Tierra Seca Range Club from U of A served up a great breakfast and got the day started off right. Iric Burden from the Coconino National Forest and George Ruyle from the U of A officially welcomed the group. Dave Schafer, Resident Director of the ranch experiment station described the ranch, it's management and 15 years of animal breeding, animal nutrition, and adaptive grazing research and educational work conducted here. Doug Tolleson, range specialist for the ranch followed up with the range related research and extension programming he has been involved in during his 4 years on staff. High school students (Dan Sullivan, Savannah McReynolds, Garret Fish, and Amber Lee) who have participated in NRCWAY and Range Rocks! told the group about some of the skills they have learned such as: wildlife water tank escape ramp construction and installation; tablet PC, VGS software, and pace quadrat vegetation transects; and real-time grazing animal diet quality assessment using portable near infrared spectroscopy. Jim Sprinkle, U of A Area Livestock Specialist and Bryan McMurray, Beef Marketing Manager with Cargill showed us some innovative research



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equipment designed to monitor individual animal mineral supplement consumption on rangelands and told us about mineral nutrition for livestock in Arizona and how that is different from surrounding regions.



After lunch, we drove northeast about an hour to hear Duane Coleman, manager of the Hopi 3 Canyon Ranch describe a brush management/grinding project he has ongoing there. A little farther east we stopped to see a pinon/juniper area included in a prescribed fire/grazing project on the Bar T Bar Ranch. Iric Burden of the USFS and Bob Prosser of the Bar T Bar described how the project got started, how it has been carried out and what they planned to accomplish in the future. At this location we also learned about two different cattle/elk interaction studies that had been done on pinon/juniper range on the V Bar V and in the pine vegetation near there. Larry Howery, Range Specialist for the U of A and Bill Miller, Wildlife Professor for ASU detailed their work on forage use, techniques to assess potential competition, and management of these sympatric species.



That evening, Bopper Cannon and his crew prepared one of his classic chuck wagon suppers: tri-tip beef, ranch potatoes, dutch-oven biscuits, beans, and salad, topped off with dutch-oven cobbler. We then saw a video of the V Bar V Ranch history created by Deb Pearson, ranch business manager as well as a video re-cap of this summers NRCWAY at Mingus Springs Camp. It has become sort of a tradition to have a little live music at our summer meetings with the “band” named after some local place. This year was no exception as the “Happy Jacks” took center stage under the dining fly to wrap up the evening.



On Friday morning we traveled to the old Beaver Creek Ranger Station. The Range Club from ASU cooked up some wonderful breakfast burritos and we burned off those calories hiking in Wickiup Draw, where we saw the headcuts and erosion which has been a problem there for a number of years. Amina Sena, Watershed Specialist for the Coconino on the Red Rock district presented a little history of the draw and outlined the many factors affecting that ecosystem. Next stop was at Scared Mountain for some agricultural archaeology presented by Peter Pilles, archaeologist for the Coconino National Forest. At the V Bar V



Heritage Site (former ranch headquarters now a historical site operated by the USFS) we were able to see some of the best petroglyphs in the southwest. Ken Zoll and Jerry Ehrhardt, both members of the Arizona Archaeological Society educated the group on the rock art and historical trails used by native and US military people in the area.



Back at the Beaver Creek Station for lunch, the Verde NRC presented information about their projects to provide wildlife escape ramps and “no-trace” fire pits. Doug Tolleson summarized the

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meeting and challenged the attendees to look at rangelands with new eyes after learning about historical uses of the land and how this will affect what we are able to do management-wise both now and in the future.

Doug Tolleson
Pres-Elect/Meeting Coordinator



Welcome New Members!

Jeff Sturla
William Edwards
Vincent Aguiar
Chance Frazee
William Miller
Casey T. Francisco
John R. Augustine
Allison M. Peterson
Timothy J. Lyons

Scottsdale, AZ
Sierra Vista, AZ
Tempe, AZ
Willcox, AZ
Mesa, AZ
Tuba City, AZ
Phoenix, AZ
La Cueva, NM
Flagstaff, AZ

Corey Ertl
Lisa Hemovich
Rachel Claus-Walker
Lawrence Yazzie
Ed Holloway
Barry K. Wallace
Grant R. Rogers
Steve L. Carson

Apache Junction, AZ
Benson, AZ
McNeal, AZ
Tuba City, AZ
Safford, AZ
Chandler, AZ
Tucson, AZ
Santa Fe, NM



Plant Update:

For those who drove out to view Clear Creek Canyon, Thursday afternoon, at the summer meeting, the plant people were intrigued with was correctly identified by someone. I can't remember who said fern-bush, but that is one of the common names. It is not one that the USDA Plants Database will recognize though, in the common name search! The official common name is desert sweet. Scientific name *Chamaebatiaria millefolium*.



Desert sweet branch



Desert sweet leaf



Desert sweetflower

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