



Volume 1 **International Mountain Section Newsletter** March 2005

To Foster Advancement in the Science and Art of Rangeland Management

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President's Message
Donna Lawrence

I have been a member of the IMS since I moved to Alberta 12 years ago. Although I was heartily welcomed and encouraged by the IMS members to be involved, I became a lethargic member making on a half-hearted commitment to the organization. Then it happened, a summer tour too close to home to ignore and a request at the business meeting to let my name stand for 2nd-Vice President. All of a sudden I felt my commitment to IMS increase a hundredfold and I was anxious and nervous about the responsibility I was taking on.

But luckily for me, the active and dedicated IMS members came to my support and have been guiding me through the year with patience, humour and kind words. As President, I am the interim leader, but the heart and soul of the organization is our active membership. This fact rang true for me when I listened to Lesley Radtke's membership report at the Advisory Council Meeting in Fort Worth. She confirmed what I already knew – our section is as strong as the commitment and talent of our membership and every member is important with something unique and worthwhile to contribute.

We in IMS are fortunate to have a wide and varied membership. We have members who have participated on various committees, held executive positions many times over, and who have faithfully attended meetings for years. These members have built the traditions and character of our section. They are true range managers dedicated to the range resource, range science, and the range management way of life and family values. They instill a sense of pride and motivation that I have thrived on for years!

New members bring new ideas, fresh legs and all kinds of enthusiasm. They challenge our traditions and provide a glimpse into the future of our section. One of the most inspiring sessions at the meeting in Fort Worth was the awards ceremony where the students from University of Alberta and Montana State University achieved amazing results again this year. The UofA Range Team, under the mentorship of Barry Irving, continued their 15 year tradition of finishing at the top of the student competitions (plant identification and URME). In fact, UofA students finished as the top three combined (URME and plant identification). Congratulations to Dean Hystad for

2005 Executive

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President's Message Continued

achieving first place, Marilyn Germaine for finishing in second place and Rae Haddow for finishing in third place. As a team, the UofA students placed first in the URME and second in plant identification. Dean was also the First Place student on the URME and Marilyn Fifth High in Plant Identification. MSU must have set a record by bringing almost 40 students to the Annual Meeting this year and they won their share of awards as well! Bob Wesley, outgoing Student Conclave President, received third place in the individual URME, and the MSU team placed third in the URME. Chaley Paulson, Montana State University, exercised her political ambitions and was elected the Student Conclave Reporter. I hope all of the students know the sense of pride they create for our section. I certainly hope that these future range management professionals can find employment in Alberta and Montana so that they continue to be active IMS members for many years to come.

At our 2005 fall meeting in Alberta, we will have the opportunity to recognize the outstanding achievements of our IMS members (particularly those from Alberta). I know IMS has many members whose accomplishments are truly inspiring! I can think of no better way to foster a sense of pride within the section and encourage our members to continue their good work by recognizing our member's achievements. The IMS Recognition Award recognizes long service and skilled range management. The Excellence in Grazing Award is awarded to ranching families who have practiced and promoted sound range management practices. The Trail Boss Award is awarded to an IMS member who has dedicated their life to the science and profession of range management.

There are national awards given out by the parent society at the Annual Meeting that I know some of our IMS members would qualify for. These awards are described on the parent society website. Nominations deadlines for these awards are **in April**, so I encourage our membership to submit their nominations to the Awards committee members as soon as possible (**Ed Nelson, Dr. Art Bailey** in Alberta and **Bob Ross, Matt Ricketts** in Montana)!

At the fall meeting in Bozeman last year, I started another set of awards that I hope become traditional IMS awards – the Talent Award, Unsung Hero Award and the Well Sung Hero Award. Although I handed out some old silver trays as “gag awards” in the spirit of fun and friendship, I was very serious about the recognizing these dedicated IMS members. **Merry Vanderwalk** received the **Talent Award** because she has an unwavering ability to win our plant identification contests, she effortlessly produces amazing camp meals (okay Jack should get some credit here too!) and she always has a welcoming smile and hug for everyone in IMS. **Lou Hagener** received the **Unsung Hero Award** for his unfailing commitment to IMS and his tremendous organization skills as secretary/Treasurer. Only those who have served on the executive with Lou will truly appreciate his quiet leadership, humble manner in sharing information and his true dedication to all aspects of IMS. **Sherm Ewing** was given the **Well Sung Hero** award because he is one of those rare members who isn't afraid to speak up and voice his opinion to help the section. He is knowledgeable, articulate and is committed to maintaining the history and tradition of the section. Now the challenge for these award winners is to continue this new tradition I have created and pass these awards onto another deserving IMS member at the 2005 fall meeting!

By now it is likely clear that what I appreciate most about IMS are our members. Our IMS members are a family of wonderful characters with amazing talents and skills. I know it is difficult to attend all of the meetings and stay involved, but please remember you are always welcome and your talents and opinions are appreciated and needed. We'd love to see you again at the summer tour in Montana and the fall meeting in Alberta. Thanks all of you for supporting me through my year as President; I truly appreciate it!

2005 Executive, Directors

2nd Year

Montana
Stephanie Seaver

2nd Year

Alberta
Christoph Weder

1st Year

Montana
Matt Ricketts

1st Year

Alberta
Edward Bork

Annual Fall Meeting of the Society for Range Management

International Mountain Section

Grantree Best Western
Bozeman, MT October 30, 2004

Minutes

Call to order at 3:30 pm President Ed Mott

Minutes of summer meeting approved as printed in the newsletter.

Financial report – Lou Hagener - mentioned that there will likely now be more drawdown on the Cdn account since the newsletter will be produced and distributed from Alberta.; speaker fund is being drawn down and the Youth fund is available at \$1000.

Motion: B. Ross, Second S. Ewing that financial report be accepted. **Carried.**

Barry Adams was confirmed as the new Secretary/Treasurer and incoming President Donna Lawrence has provided Barry with a signed letter to make the changes in designation and signing authority with the US Bank and with CIBC in Lethbridge.

Results of election: Angela Burkinshaw 2nd VP, Ed Bork, Alberta Director, Matt Ricketts Montana Director. Updated roster of officers is appendix 1 attached to these minutes and will appear at www.srm-ims.org.

Moved that ballots be destroyed.

Motion by Bob Ross that section express a deep thank you to Lou Hagener for his outstanding seven-year stint as IMS Secretary Treasurer. Applause. Barry Adams expressed his appreciation for the accounting system that Lou has established.

Old business:

Website: Steph Sever reviewed the features of the new website (www.srm-ims.org) that was launched October 22, 2004. The website will be a useful source of information for IMS members and a way to promote IMS to the general public. The website Annual operating cost will be about \$200. Malcolm Adams will serve as Webmaster. The site requires ongoing input and ideas to be successful. IMS members can use the notice board on the website to address section issues. The calendar portion of the website can be used to advertise any upcoming range event. Any notice or calendar events should be sent to the Webmaster for posting on the website. The Webmaster will be trying to update the website on a weekly basis. Judy Copithorne volunteered to create an electronic copy of the section administrative handbook which will be posted on the website. The new site was well received by members! The section thanked Barry Adams and Stephanie Sever for developing the website, K2 for donating their time to design the website and Malcolm Adams for volunteering to act as our Webmaster.

Range Initiative Program: It was suggested that at the IMS summer business meeting that a letter from the IMS president would help encourage the restoration of the Governor's Range Tour, Range

Camp, Winter Range Seminar. The Montana members reported that with the upcoming US election they will continue their efforts with the newly elected government representatives and a letter from IMS is not needed at this time. .

Select IMS Rep to SRM Advisory Council: a number of volunteers are needed to be present on Saturday for the council meeting. Dennis Phillipii suggested that three proxies could be authorized for who ever shows up. Moved by S. Ewing and Seconded by J. Vandervalk that Steph Sever and two other proxies be authorized to represent IMS at Council meeting in Ft. Worth. Carried

E-mail for the section: Donna L explained the ease of accessing email addresses from the parent society website. Donna suggested that section members need to keep their email up to date so that our electronic communications in the section can be effective. Questions were raised about how accessible the information is or should be. Ed Mott suggested that council members get clarification about the accessibility of member information. Moved by Bob Wesley Second by George Hirschenberger that in the interest of saving costs and time, that one more hard copy of the Newsletter will be mailed out to all members, after that, all members with email addresses will receive the newsletter by email. Members without emails will continue to receive the Newsletter by mail. Carried.

Bed and breakfast program: Chuck Jarecki related that little feedback was raised by the earlier promotion of this concept and he expressed concern that this program had not received adequate coverage and profile by the parent society. Section members continue to see value in the proposal and Jeff Mosely offered to raise the issue with the Board of Directors

Excellence in Range Management Committee: Parent society has requested a representative for the Excellence in Grazing Management committee. Matt Ricketts relayed the function of the committee to recognize excellence in range management and the nomination process requires the development of a poster presentation. Ed Nelson volunteered to represent Alberta on the committee. Appointment of a Montana rep is pending. Tara Fisher with Undaunted Stewardship was suggested. Matt Ricketts to follow up with her.

Unfunded projects: Moved by Chuck Jarecki, Seconded by B. Ross that we contribute \$500 to support a position paper. Amended by George Hirschenberger to be a paper on Sage Grouse with cooperation from Alberta and MSU. Barry Adams to contact Sam Albrecht regarding details of pledge. Carried.

Committee Reports: Nominating committee completed their task. Brett Olson for Youth Committee activities – noted funds approved to go to Old West Range, mentioned the search for qualified youth to attend parent society meeting continues; any member who knows of a youth interested in attending the meeting in Fort Worth should contact Brett.

New Business:

Funds from Section Requested for Fort Worth: Jan and Jake Powell, executive from the MSU Range Club reported that approximately 37 members of the club have committed to attending the Annual Meeting in Fort Worth. Almost all of the students have already purchased their plane tickets, but the students still need financial costs to cover other travel expenses that will be incurred. Barry Irving reported that UofA range team have the funds to cover their traveling expenses and would not require additional funding from IMS at this time. Moved by Chuck Jarecki and Seconded by Matt Ricketts that the section provide \$500 to support MSU students for travel to Fort Worth. Discussion about raising a precedent, perhaps the need for a proposed budget to support their request. Membership were very impressed with level of activity at MSU.

Amendment by Bob Wesley Seconded Donna Lawrence that motion amended that this be a one time request. Carried.

Fund raising through financial administration: Barry Adams put forward a motion for fund raising activities in Alberta.

Moved by Barry Adams Seconded by Ed Nelson Whereas the section should be protected from issues of liability and whereas the approval of the section executive would be required, Be it resolved that in Alberta the IMS take advantage of fund raising opportunities by acting as financial administrator for special range conservation and research projects in exchange for an administration fee which was made specific for Alberta. **Carried**
Discussion of motion stressed the need to ensure no liability to the section and to explore any other issues like bonding where large projects might be considered.

Other items:

- Brett Olsen invited members to consider doing some work on the Montana SRM display; the board was donated by Chuck Jarecki.
- Tracy Brewer noted that nominations are being sought for the BOD and second VP of SRM. Also, a Jean Payne scholarship fund has been started. The fund currently has \$9,000 but they would like to increase that fund to \$15,000 by 2006. Any donations or suggestions on how to solicit funds would be appreciated.
- Bob Wesley highlighted the big push for more student members in SRM and he would welcome any ideas on how to increase student membership.

Motion of thanks to the president Ed Mott for his year of service to the section. Applause.

President adjourned meeting at 5:30 pm.

Notes from the Advisory Council Meeting in Fort Worth

The Advisory Council is the link between SRM Sections and the Board of Directors. The AC is made up of 3 individuals from each section, usually the President and Vice-Presidents. The role of the AC is to review, discuss, and make recommendations on issues to be later considered by the Board. Issues to be discussed by the AC originate from the Board, SRM committees, Sections, and individual SRM members. The following is a brief synopsis of the 2005 AC meeting in Fort Worth, Texas.

2004 AC Meeting Action #4 regarding BSE:

- Although the AC passed this motion unanimously in 2004, the BOD did not.
- The motion read "Be it resolved that the SRM recognizes that an animal health event is a North American economic, social and rangeland resource issue. We encourage the NA governments to work together to encourage proper management, make decisions based on sound science and prevent deterioration of rangeland resource resulting from an animal health event (BSE, TB, CWD, FMD).

Membership Report from Lesley Radtke:

- down 161 members overall.
- sections are encouraged to contact members who have let their memberships lapse to remind them to renew their membership or perhaps give us some information why they have left SRM.
- Sections could develop a notice to insert with the newsletter.

Advisory Council, Continued

- Contact new members personally, find out what their skills and interests are and their expectations from SRM.
- A membership application could be included in the newsletter so that members have the resources on hand to recruit new members.
- To help promote SRM and attract new members, head office has created a tabletop display that can be booked and sent out to various events. Contact Lesley Radtke to see if the display would be available for your upcoming meeting. Lesley has a travel budget and may be able to travel with the display depending on her schedule. If you would Lesley to attend your event, please send her the dates of the meeting and a brief agenda and description of the meeting.

SRM Website:

- Ann Tanaka is in charge of the development of the website and is interested in ideas from the sections to improve the website. Her email address is ann@coveoregon.com. One suggestion from AC was to include a live map with section boundaries as a way to link to section websites.

SRM Poster:

- A poster to promote SRM, range management post-secondary education, and range management careers was developed by CalPac Section.
- Copies of the poster are available to all SRM members and should be posted in public areas where potential members would visit (ie., libraries, county offices, government offices, etc.)
- Contact Donna Lawrence for copies of the poster.
- Note: at the time of the AC meeting, CALPAC reported that they needed \$700.00 to cover remaining production costs and proposed that each section contribute funds to the project and get a supply of posters for their section. Although IMS members at the business meeting voted to contribute \$100.00 to the project, Donna will check with CALPAC to see if they still require the funds as there was a lot of money collected for the project in Fort Worth.

SRM Office in Washington:

- Capital section wants more presence in Washington.
- John Tanaka has formed a task group to evaluate the function and location of SRM head office.
- Exec VP vacancy may provide opportunity to make some changes. Also Deen Boe, current half-time position, will be leaving this position in December and current shared office location in DC will be given up.

Name Change:

- Southern Section requested that a motion be made to the ad hoc committee requesting a final and decisive vote by the membership on the name change. Resolution passed by AC.

Annual Meeting Bids:

- 2008 - Louisville, Kentucky; 2009 - Rapid City, South Dakota. Both meeting bids were supported by AC.

Mark your calendar, pack the camper, and arrange for the neighbour to look in on your place.

The **Summer Tour** is coming to south-western Montana, **July 21-23**.

The Summer Tour will center out of the Birch Creek Education Centre, just minutes north of Dillon, Montana. Maynard Smith (2nd Vice President, IMS) and crew have planned a program with something for everyone, including:

- Undaunted Stewardship
- Riparian Management and Improvement
- Lewis and Clarke, then and now
- Big Hole Watershed Committee activities

The Summer Tour will be a bus tour format, providing plenty of opportunity for travelling discussion, carefree sightseeing, or plain old rest and relaxation between stops.

And if the technical information is not enough, there will be the usual hefty helpings of good food, friendly fellowship, and beautiful rangeland vistas. Further details to follow.



Message from the Editor

I have been thinking a little more on the purpose of the IMS Newsletter. It seems to me that the primary purpose of a newsletter is to keep the local membership informed about things that have happened in SRM as well as things that are going to happen. This edition of the Newsletter occupies an “in-between” position that is ideally suited to inform about things that have happened. Thus, the timing has been deliberately delayed until the events of the Annual Meeting could be reported.

This edition also marks a milestone; it will be the last IMS newsletter delivered to every member by the traditional mail method. Future IMS Newsletter editions will be sent by e-mail to members who have a valid e-mail address contained in their personal record at the Denver office. Members who do not have a valid e-mail will continue to receive their newsletter by mail. The responsibility for the accuracy of the information in each member's personal record continues to rest with the member. You can edit your personal record by visiting the SRM website at www.rangelands.org and signing into the Members Only side. Your signon ID is your member number and your password is your last name. After you sign on for the first time you should change your password for security reasons.

As you read this newsletter you will find a bundle of information on Section and Parent Society activities. In fact, there was too much material submitted to fit into one issue, so I had to select the items that were most timely and save some for the next Newsletter. Speaking of the next Newsletter, the deadline will be June 1 for submissions to target a package in your hands by mid-June. The focus of the June Newsletter is to highlight the Summer Tour, on which Maynard Smith and his crew are currently working hard on your behalf.

As always, comments on the Newsletter are welcome, it belongs to you.

Barry Irving

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CONCLAVE

A group of young professionals met in Fort Worth to discuss the possibility of a new conclave within the Society for Range Management. About ten people were invited to this brainstorming event and over forty attended and participated. The purpose of this gathering was to devise a plan to bridge the age gap within the society. Currently, various committees are being developed and a business meeting is being organized for the next annual meeting in Vancouver where officers for the new Young Professionals Conclave will be elected. Our goal is to have representation of young professionals from every section. For more information or to find out how to get involved contact Steph Sever at ssever@montana.edu or 406-994-3272.

Information Sources:

www.srm-ims.org International Mountain Section, SRM

www.agric.gov.ab.ca Agriculture web site for Alberta

Texas Rangelands



Texas Tall Grass Prairie after a year with nearly double average precipitation, 70 inches of rain in 2004/2005



Juniper and oaks invade grasslands unless major intervention is done



Prescribed burning is one method of managing brush encroachment and heavy litter build-ups on National Grasslands

Scott Fry explains to a group how he and his crew coordinate burning 6,000 acres per year within a visual distance from the 6 million inhabitants of Dallas/Fort Worth



U of A student Marc Obert gets close and personal with an *Andropogon gerardii* (Big Bluestem)



There is always a neat little trick to learn on SRM tours.
This is a custom equipped hospital horse.



SRM tours are great places to relax and meet new friends.
A little spring Texas sun is a form of therapy for
northern rangelanders.

University Student Awards



University of Alberta
1st High Team URME
2nd High Team Plant Identification



Montana State University
3rd High Team URME



Dean Hystad
University of Alberta
1st Place Individual Combined Score
1st Place URME



Marilyn Germaine
University of Alberta
2nd Place Individual Combined Score
5th Place Plant Identification



Rae Haddow
University of Alberta
3rd Place Individual Combined Score



Bob Wesley
Montana State University
3rd Place URME

All Awards Presented by:
Dr. Mort Kothman
President, Society for Range Management