



Volume 1 **International Mountain Section Newsletter** April 2007  
*To Foster Advancement in the Science and Art of Rangeland Management*

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**President's Message**  
**Angela Burkinshaw**

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- Reasons to be Proud IMS Award Recipients for 2006/2007
- Bookmark the Summer Tour, July 12-14, Lubrecht Forest (45 miles east of Missoula, Montana). Details in June Newsletter

Greetings, I hope spring has found you where you are. Here in Red Deer it is snowing once again, leaving me with the feeling that flowers blooming and trees leafing out are a long way off. Hopefully, this will not be the situation. On the positive side, at least, we are getting some additional moisture.

To begin, I would like to thank Barry Irving for putting off sending out the newsletter and allowing me time to write this address. For the last six weeks my husband and I have been enjoying our new baby girl and our very active and increasingly independent 22 month old son. I have been in full blown mommy-mode and I truly regret that my duties as IMS President have slipped by the wayside. Thankfully, George Hirschenberger and Sue De Bruijn stepped in and attended the advisory council meeting in Reno. I really appreciate the time they took to do this. I also appreciate the time George took to run the IMS board meeting and his additional time to provide us with the information for this newsletter. I was glad to hear that the annual meeting was well received. Commendations to Barry Irving on the success of the University of Alberta Range Team, their excellent achievements make us all proud. I have been told of another highlight from the meeting, which is Jeff Mosley running for president of SRM. This is very exciting news and we are all rooting for him. Becoming involved in the executive of this chapter has been a real privilege for me and I can think of no better organization to be involved with, especially when your desire is to be an advocate for healthy rangelands.

George is organizing the upcoming summer meeting and tour and I am certain that he would appreciate your support. I know that I could not have put on last years summer tour without the help and support of other members. Historically, the topics presented and discussion generated at our summer tours have been engaging and informative and the upcoming summer tour already appears to be worth attending!

Thanks to all the members who have been actively involved this past

year with committees and the executive. Dr. Bailey has resigned as Chair of the Awards and Nomination Committee and I would like to thank him for the time and effort he dedicated to this position. If anyone is interested in becoming the new chair for this committee please contact me. Involvement in the Society for Range Management enables us to have a larger voice to advocate for healthy rangelands and further our knowledge about its importance, while at the same time have fun!

## **News from Reno**

George Hirschenberger 1<sup>st</sup> VP

The last issue of this Newsletter was entirely devoted to the DRAFT proposal by SRM President John Tanaka to select 3 or 4 cities where SRM's annual meetings would be held in the future. The Advisory Council, which is made up of the Executive Committee from each of SRM's sections, met and discussed this topic for a good share of Sunday. President Tanaka spoke to the AC early in their debate and shed some new light on this proposal. Recently, the market for convention facilities has seen a reversal; In 2002, the market strongly favoured the buyers (SRM, et al.) and facilities were competing with each other to book conventions. This buyer's market has recently turned around and the sellers (hotels) have raised fees and are less interested in booking conventions 5 to 10 years in advance. So there is no longer a financial incentive for SRM to contract the annual meetings more than four years in advance.

But the other reasons to consider the 3 or 4 city rotation are still there: the reduced travel costs to 'hub cities' can result in real dollar savings to the traveler, returning to the same facility every four years would (greatly) reduce the planning workload for both the sponsoring section and SRM Headquarters staff, and the logistics are improved if the meetings are held at the 'right sized' facilities. (Most would agree that the facilities in Reno were very good in terms of having all the meeting rooms, restaurants and other needed facilities grouped close together.)

After lots of deliberation, the AC passed and forwarded a resolution to the SRM Board of Directors. Their resolution asks the BOD to form a Task Force which would draft guidelines and selection criteria for Annual Meetings beginning in 2011 (the location for the next three Annual Meetings has already been decided). These guidelines and criteria will be published in the Society's December 2007 Newsletter for all members to review and comment on. Final recommendations will then be presented to both the Board of Directors and the general membership at the 2008 Business Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. One item on the AC agenda that did not get a lot of discussion was the proposal to re-institute Annual Summer Meetings. The Task Force will also make recommendations on this topic.

Other Advisory Council business included sending resolutions to the BOD related to improving government agency support for the Certified Professional Range Manager program, finding ways to better stay in touch with SRM retirees and life members, sponsoring an outreach effort for judges and others involved in deciding rangeland management legal issues, developing a better process for getting information from the AC to the BOD, and following through on some changes recommended by the National Awards Committee on the way national awards are processed. Finally, the AC decided to 'pass the hat' for an SRM sign at our new headquarters. Within 24 hours, Texas Section President Paul Loeffler, handed \$880 cash to President Tanaka to purchase a sign for the new building in Wheat Ridge, CO. Thanks to the Advisory Council and Trade Show vendors who contributed and to the Texas Section for taking the bull by the horns! This is one item of business that will not come around for further discussion next year.

## **International Mountain Section Business Meeting, Reno, Nevada**

The IMS Board met over breakfast one morning to discuss the recent resignation of Dr Arthur Bailey as the Chair for the Awards and Nomination Committees. In response, the IMS BOD decided to form an ad hoc group which will review the status of these two committees and make recommendations to IMS President Angela Burkinshaw, on a replacement for Dr Bailey. The ad hoc group will be led by Brian Thrift (who Angela had asked to lead a review of the awards process in MT). Jill Burkhardt, Lou Hagner, Heidi Olbert and Tanya Thrift have volunteered to help Brian (Mat or Cara Ricketts, Jack or Mary Vandervalk and Sherm Ewing were also suggested as ad hoc members). Brian and his group will bring their recommendations to the IMS Summer Meeting (July 12-14 near Missoula, MT). If you are interested in taking part in either Brian's ad hoc group or the Awards or Nominating committees, please contact Brian Thrift. His contact information is on the IMS website ([www.srm-ims.org](http://www.srm-ims.org) select the "Contact" button at the top of the page).

And speaking of the website, there is an error on the page that provides "Contact" information. Dr Bret Olson is still the Chair for the Range Youth Committee and his contact information will be restored to the page. Jill Burkhardt and Tanya Thrift are the contact points for the Young Range Professionals movement, not the "Youth Program" chairs. So, if you know worthy candidates **-and we certainly hope you do** --for recognition by the Youth Committee, please contact Bret. If you are a "young professional" --and yes, Maynard and Ed Nelson, that certainly includes all those who are young-at-heart --contact Jill or Tanya for more information. One last thing about these committees: Any IMS member who knows someone who would be a good candidate for any of the Section awards, youth scholarships, etc., please contact the committee chair or a committee members **soon**. Wouldn't it be great to have a large pool of nominees for these committees to work through this year? If you're not sure what awards or scholarships are available, you guessed it, that information is summarized on the IMS website ([www.srm-ims.org](http://www.srm-ims.org) and select "Section Info" then select "SRM IMS Handbook").

And a word from Duane McCarthy about the Excellence in Range Management Award: It would be great to see more posters that spotlight good ranch and rangeland management. The top entries from each Section go to the Annual Meeting where the nominee's poster and presentation are judged. (I'm sure Duane McCarthy could state this better, gh)

Don't forget to mark you calendar for the 2007 IMS summer meeting. Pre-registration information will be out to you in the June Newsletter. The meeting will be held approximately 25 miles east of Missoula at Lubrecht Forest headquarters. Lubrecht has facilities for both tent and RV camping, some 'motel' accommodations and rustic cabins. If you want advance information or want to help with the meeting, contact George Hirschenberger at 406-543-8232 or you can email George at [GNHberger@msn.com](mailto:GNHberger@msn.com)

About 40 IMS members attended an impromptu section meeting while in Reno. Most of the topics already covered in this newsletter were discussed and Dr Jeff Mosley offered us his perspective as a SRM Board member. Essentially, Jeff said "it is all good news". SRM membership has rebounded over the past 12 months, the end of the year financial statement shows a profit and we had nearly 2,000 people register for the Reno meeting. Improvements have been made to the new headquarters building that will improve the work environment and reduce energy costs and the Executive Committee is working to resolve many of the issues faced by the Society. In short, the future looks good for SRM.

## Montana Rangeland Resources Program Update

Heidi Olbert

The Montana Rangeland Resources Program is up and running again! After a brief period of time with a lack of funding, the program is now fully funded with a coordinator in place. The program is administered by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) under the guidance of the Governor's appointed Rangeland Resources Executive Committee (RREC). The committee gives the coordinator advice and counsel and is comprised of six ranchers from across the state; Chairman, Steve Hedstrom of Raynesford, Vice Chair, John Hollenback of Gold Creek, Les Gilman of Alder, Michael Lane of Three Forks, Tracy Hentges of Wolf Point, and Diane Ahlgren of Winnett.

The purpose of the program is to promote the importance of Montana's rangelands, coordinate rangeland management activities between persons and organizations, and to recognize those doing exceptional work in rangeland management. Three major educational events are carried out each year. The Montana Youth Range Camp, Governor's Range Tour, and State Winter Grazing Seminar and are held at different locations each year throughout the state. Local conservation districts co-host these successful events with the RREC and DNRC. These events are a great opportunity for producers and agency people to come together and discuss rangeland issues and share experiences and expertise.

The 2006 Montana Youth Range Camp was hosted by the Judith Basin Conservation District and held in the Highwood Mountains at the Farmer's Union Arrowpeak facilities. It was a beautiful setting for the campers to learn about rangelands and have some fun. During their week at camp, the kids learn plant identification skills, attend outdoor class sessions to learn range-related topics and work on a ranch problem. Last year the campers enjoyed a visit from a National Guard helicopter, campfires in the evenings, a "Mountain Man" presentation, and a visit to the Peak where they learned valuable teamwork skills. The 2007 camp will be hosted by the Lower Musselshell Conservation District and will be held at the Musselshell Schoolhouse, located 23 miles east of Roundup, Montana. Youth from all walks of life are encouraged and welcome to attend.

Conrad was the location for the 2006 Governor's Range Tour where four conservation districts pooled their efforts to put together the tour. Glacier County, Pondera County, Liberty County and Toole County Conservation Districts offered a tour that included stops in 3 counties to view a variety of rangeland practices. Tour topics included conservation easements, wildlife/cattle grazing, salinity control, weed management, water developments and rangeland monitoring. Tour participants also enjoyed a visit from Governor Schweitzer at the banquet.

The 2007 Winter Grazing Seminar was a huge success in Harlowton, Montana with approximately 100 participants braving the January weather to attend. The seminar began with an inspirational speech from Bruce Vincent. The talks to follow over the next two days included prescribed grazing with the management of cattle behavior, Montana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) presentation, a wind energy discussion panel, cattle market outlook, cattle identification discussion panel, and alternative incomes. The banquet to accompany the seminar was held at the Moose Lodge with a prime rib dinner and a presentation by wildlife specialist Vince Yannone.

These events are open to the public and would especially welcome International Mountain Section members. Quite often CEU credits are available for range professionals who attend these functions. Please visit the website for more information:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/consdist/rangelandmangement.asp>. If you have any questions regarding the events, would like to be on a mailing list for upcoming events or think your conservation district may be interested in hosting an event please contact Heidi Olbert at [holbert@mt.gov](mailto:holbert@mt.gov) or (406) 444-6619.

## **A web site devoted to meeting the information needs of the cow calf and forage producer.**

[www.Foragebeef.ca](http://www.Foragebeef.ca) is a web site that highlights and summarizes forage and beef research that is relevant to beef and forage producers in Canada and the northern United States. The Alberta Beef Producers, Canada Alberta Beef Research Fund, Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund, and Agriculture and Food Canada are all supporting partners in the development of the web site.

[www.Foragebeef.ca](http://www.Foragebeef.ca) was developed as a means of creating a living library for research and extension information that is useful to all beef producers, although the majority of the information is western Canadian based. The website contains “Knowledge Nuggets”, a collection of one sentence key statements for each specific topic. During the past year a significant amount of new information has been added to the site. One major topic is Climate Change. Information in the form of scientific papers has been developed into two new modules. This is followed with several scientific papers on research on the forage and beef cattle industry as it relates to greenhouse gas emissions.

Another key module deals with molds and mycotoxins and their effect on beef cattle health. This site deals with problems with molds and mycotoxins in animal feed and makes suggestions on how to alleviate possible health problems. A significant number of very good fact sheets have been added to this module.

Research information on Nutrition and Reproductive Efficiency has been summarized from a wide variety of scientific papers that are posted on the site. In addition, new modules have been developed on vitamin nutrition, and nutrition as it relates to reproductive efficiency. Sections on cattle identification systems, bull management, bedding, and crossbreeding also contain information directly applicable to beef producers.

Next year fact sheets and information developed under the Agriculture and Agri Food Canada Alberta Greencover Best Management Practices for riparian, forage and grazing lands will be available on the site. This information will come from numerous projects sponsored by this program and will feature new and up to date information on how to best manage these landscapes.

[www.Foragebeef.ca](http://www.Foragebeef.ca) has an internal search engine which allows the viewer to quickly locate information on the site. In the near future a new index on site specific information will be added; much like the index in a book. This will give an overall view of the wide breath of information available on the site.

Future expansion of the site will see the development of new modules on forage insects and diseases, forage insect control, vaccination programs for beef cattle, conservation, feed mixing and forage for other livestock (dairy and horses). The basic concept of [www.Foragebeef.ca](http://www.Foragebeef.ca) was to develop a renowned web site that has selected the best research and extension information on all topics involving forage production and management and beef cow calf production as it relates to western Canadian conditions. [www.Foragebeef.ca](http://www.Foragebeef.ca) provides Canadian farmers with an easy to use, up to date information system that will meet their future needs for agriculture research information summarized in a form that they can use.

## **There's lots to be proud of within the International Mountain Section**

Two awards were given at the Fall Meeting of the International Mountain Section held in great Falls, Montana in November, 2006. Dr. Bret Olson received the Trail Boss Award for his dedication to undergraduate teaching as well as his many research projects in extensive weed control and winter grazing of livestock. Bret is also a true IMS champion, organizing numerous Section events as being a workhorse in range youth. Congratulations Bret.

Tom and Mary Kay Milesnick received the International Mountain Section Outstanding Grazing Management Award for their life long dedication to rangeland management on their Belgrade, Montana ranch. Tom and Mary Kay are ambassadors for the western lifestyle, hosting diverse groups that span the spectrum from scientists to environmentalists. IMS recognized Tom and Mary Kay for their outstanding rangeland management as well as their proven leadership. Tom and Mary Kay have been previously recognized at local, state, and national levels for their stewardship of rangeland resources.

The next time you see Bret Olson or Tom and Mary Kay Milesnick be sure to congratulate them for awards received and a job well done.

## **IMS Members Clean up the Awards in Reno, Nevada**



**Duane McCartney**  
**Lacombe, Alberta**  
**Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**  
**Outstanding Achievement Award**  
**Reno, Nevada**



**Jenny Kossler**  
**Belgrade, Montana**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Place, High School Youth Forum**  
**Illustrated Talk Competition**  
**Reno, Nevada**

## **Graduate Student Oral Paper and Poster Competition: Reno, Nevada**

**Kim Goodwin**, Montana State University: First Place, M.Sc. Oral Paper Competition.

**Rae Haddow**, University of Alberta: First Place, M.Sc. Poster Competition.

**Katie Benzel**, Montana State University: Second Place, M.Sc. Poster Competition.



**University of Alberta Range Team:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> High Team Plant Identification Contest**

**2<sup>nd</sup> High Team Undergraduate Range Management Exam**

**Left to Right**

**Barry Irving (Coach), Darin Sherritt (3<sup>rd</sup> Place Combined Score, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Plant I.D.), Leah Rigney (4<sup>th</sup> Place Plant I.D.), Tisa Bevan, Tianna Magis, Brenda Shaughnessy (2<sup>nd</sup> Place Combined Score), Erin Schnick, Vicki Heidt, Travis Lundberg, Mae Elsinger (Assistant Coach). Missing: Tanner Pollack**

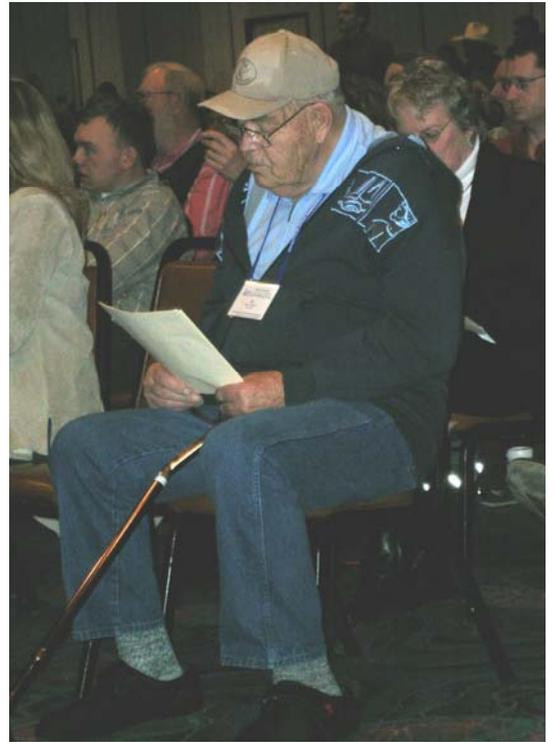


**Tanner Pollack (1<sup>st</sup> Place Undergraduate Range Management Exam)**



Who says you can't have any fun with Latin plant names? Note the genus is capitalized, the species is not, and the spelling is correct.

Ed Nelson keeps every meeting on the straight and narrow.



**And a final note. Are there any emerging issues that Parent Society Directors or Section Officers should be aware of? If there are jot them down and pass them on to George Hirschenberger at 406-543-8232 ([GNHberger@msn.com](mailto:GNHberger@msn.com)). George will collect the responses and they will be published in an upcoming newsletter.**

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