



Volume 2 **International Mountain Section Newsletter** June 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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Greetings IMS members! I hope your spring is going well. We have still been getting snow every other week here in Red Deer which has delayed seeding considerably but the grazing situation looks very promising for the upcoming summer. This edition of the newsletter is filled with details of the summer tour. A lot of hard work has been put into organizing this event and I hope you will take the opportunity to come and enjoy yourselves. It sounds like it will be the best one yet and we have had a lot of fantastic summer tours!

The IMS has not been so far west in Montana for quite awhile. No matter which direction you arrive from you will be blessed with rangeland vistas and western hospitality. The Lubrecht facility looks like a great place for all IMS members to stay, socialize, and learn about rangeland resources. There is a housing alternative that will suit everyone's fancy.

George Hirschenberger and Heidi Olbert have gone to great lengths to look after details that will make your summer tour memorable. Stimulating discussion, good food, and comfortable accommodations; all for a bargain basement price. It makes you want to get there early doesn't it?

And just so you don't think the Summer Tour is all about fun, learning, and fellowship don't forget the Business Meeting the morning after. IMS only meets formally twice per year and your membership and attendance is your ticket to influencing direction and decisions made to guide IMS-SRM into the future.

Happy Trails to the 2007 IMS Summer Tour.

Registration Form

Name:
Address:

Phone:
Email:

Number in your party _____

		Number	Total
Meeting Registration: \$25.00/person Includes Thursday Ice Cream Social, Friday Continental Breakfast & site fees	\$25	x _____ =	_____
Field Trip: \$30.00/person Includes transportation, lunch and refreshments	\$30	x _____ =	_____
Friday's dinner and Saturday breakfast: \$25.00/person <u>Please let us know if you have allergies or other dietary restrictions</u>	\$25	x _____ =	_____
OR			
Sign up for the 'package deal' and get \$5.00 off.	\$75	x _____ =	_____
Pre-register for the package by July 1 and save another \$5.00	\$70	x _____ =	_____

Total for Reg, Field Trip and Meals

Lodging Reservations

		Date(s)	Total
Lodge Rooms –double occupancy	\$64.20/night	_____	_____
Lodge Rooms –single occupancy	\$42.80/night	_____	_____
Research Apt	\$107/night	_____	_____
Log Cabin (sleeps up to 4)	\$64.20/night	_____	_____
Cabins (sleeps up to 3)	\$ 38.52/night	_____	_____
Boxcars (sleeps up to 6)	\$57.78/night	_____	_____
Tent spots and RV Parking	\$5.50/night	_____	_____
Total for Lodging			_____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Make your check payable to "IMS-SRM". For Canadian funds, please add %5 to the total amount due.

Send your pre-registration to: **Heidi Olbert**
2445 York Road
Helena, MT 59602

If you have questions about registration contact Heidi at 406-444-6619 or email Heidi at "holbert@ mt.gov."

If you have questions about the facilities at Lubrecht or the tour contact George Hirschenberger at 406-543-8232 or email George at GNHberger@msn.com.

**SRM-IMS Annual Fall Meeting
Business Meeting Nov 4, 2006
Great Falls, Montana**

Minutes:

Chair: President Maynard Smith, Glenn, MT

Minutes from the Summer Tour at Rumsey were printed in the Newsletter. Lou Hagner Moved, Seconded by Bob Ross, that the minutes be approved as printed. CARRIED

Financial report was presented by Barry Adams, moved by Matt Ricketts, seconded by Bob Ross that the audited report be accepted as presented. CARRIED This years audit committee was Mike Alexander, Pincher Creek, AB and Chuck Jarecki, Poulson, MT

President Maynard Smith announced the results of the election with Mike Alexander, Pincher Creek Alberta as 2nd Vic-President, Heidi Olbert, Helena, MT as Montana Director and Sue DeBrujin, Rimbey, AB as Alberta Director.

Barry Irving moved to have the ballots destroyed, seconded by Lou Hagner. CARRIED

Moved by Chuck Jarecki, Seconded by Bob Ross..... that the IMS Executive review the process for recognizing and supporting rangeland youth. CARRIED. Meg Smith and Matt Ricketts will form a committee to review the process for selecting youth. George Hirschenberger has agreed to oversee the committee and along with assistance from Range Youth Chairperson Brett Olson will look at any proposed changes and current process as outlined in the administrative handbook.

Newsletter update provided by Barry Irving. President Maynard Smith commended Barry and Judy Irving for their dedication to Newsletter and mentioned some of the recent improvements in the format. Barry stressed the need for members to keep their email address current with the parent society so that he has the most accurate email list to work with.

Moved by Barry Adams, seconded by Barry Irving..... that the SRM IMS support the proposal made by Bill Houston from Northern Great Plains section that three sections sponsor an annual tour for the student that places in 2nd place at the annual meeting in the combined category. The section would donate a maximum of \$200 to the award each year. CARRIED. Barry Adams to follow up with the NGP and PNW sections.

The Young Professionals Conclave was described by Steph Sever. A mentoring program is being launched to foster professional growth among young rangeland professionals. Anyone working in the field is eligible.

Barry Adams described the mentorship initiative, termed the Southern Alberta Rangeland Network, to mentor about 24 young rangeland management professionals over a period of two years. The candidates are exposed to rangeland extension techniques and are coached in the second year to carry out a practicum. The initiative is supported by Alberta Agriculture, PFRA, Public Lands and the Cows and Fish program.

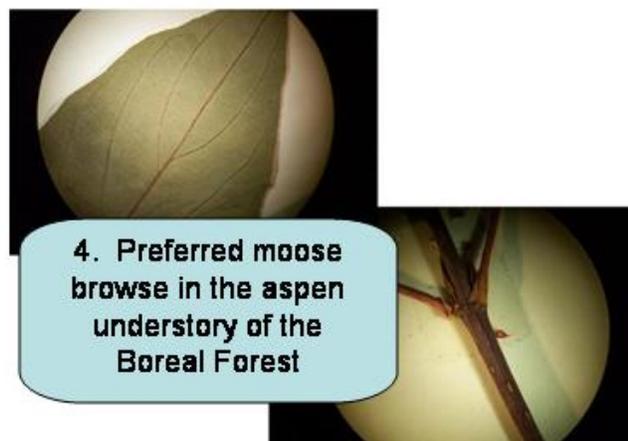
Ed Nelson announced that he will be stepping down from the Prairie Conservation Forum (PCF) after more than 10 years of service on the committee. Ed has made an outstanding contribution to the PCF and it is hoped that an Alberta rancher may take his place.

Awards – Lou discussed using the administrative handbook to guide committees i.e.; the awards committee since it is very stringently outlined here. Barry Irving proposed being able to hand out as many awards in range Management Excellence as needed. Bob Ross proposed a trail boss award every year on both sides of the border. Barry Irving has volunteered to review proposed changes to the way awards are handed out and review the administrative handbook to let us know what changes would need to be made. This will be captured at summer meeting and any proposed changes will be finalized.

Barry Irving, Donna Lawrence, Matt Ricketts and Jon Siddoway volunteered to be on the nominating committee, which entails submitting candidates at the summer meeting for the offices that need to be filled

Angela Burkinshaw will summarize IMS concerns regarding proposed changes to annual meeting locations, to be sent out to IMS members for review and comment before the annual meeting. This will be distributed through a special newsletter edition so that the sections interest in this issue can be represented at the annual meeting in Reno.

Take the Quiz. No prizes, just personal satisfaction. Answers on last page.



First Canadian SRM Student Tour Award Successful **By Mae Elsinger, PFRA Brandon, MB**

At the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management (SRM) in Vancouver, British Columbia, a new award was introduced for students competing in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) and Plant Identification contests. For placing runner-up in the combined score of the two contests at that meeting, Jennifer Coleman from Brigham Young University in Utah was the first ever recipient of a weeklong tour in western Canada to learn about some of the many range management activities occurring there. This tour was sponsored by several agencies, conservation organizations, SRM chapters and individuals throughout the region.

Tours of agency offices in Washington, D.C. are already hosted every year by US Federal agencies for the three students scoring highest on the URME and Plant ID contests and the combination of the two. It was determined by organizers and supporters of the Canadian tour that students would also value such an experience on the Canadian side of the border.

Jennifer was “surprised and delighted to receive such an honor”. Her tour consisted of a road trip from Edmonton to Regina, making stops at the University of Alberta Ranch at Kinsella, the Hargrave Ranch in southeastern Alberta, the Cypress Hills, the Native Prairie Appreciation Week (NPAW) tour around Beechy, and the Semi-Arid Prairie Research Centre (SPARC) in Swift Current. She was impressed by the breadth and quality of range management strategies and research. With no ranching background and having spent her entire college experience in the intermountain west, she noted that a key benefit she received was exposure to range management activities in a region she previously knew nothing about. She hopes to keep this knowledge with her throughout her career.



Jennifer Coleman and Mae Elsinger in the Cypress Hills



Jen and Tracy Kupchenko at the Hargrave Ranch

Research Centre in Brandon, Grasslands National Park near Val Marie, a federal community pasture, and a private ranch somewhere in the mixedgrass prairie.

Jennifer wasn't the only one feeling privileged to be involved in last year's tour. I get immense enjoyment from showing other people something new. Learning something myself in the process is a bonus. Witnessing the new experiences of this enthusiastic, thoughtful student was among the best things to happen to me last summer.

Thanks to SRM-Prairie Parkland Chapter, SRM International Mountain Section, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Barry Irving for cash contributions, and to Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration – Range and Biodiversity Division, Alberta Public Lands Division, Hargrave Ranch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Research Branch, Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan, and many individuals for their in-kind and time contributions to last year's tour. Organizers of this tour hope for your continued support for this coming summer and for the years ahead.

This past February at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the SRM in Reno-Sparks, Nevada, Brenda Shaughnessy from the University of

Alberta received the runner up tour. It is still in the planning stages, but may take place in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, with stops at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada