

INTERMOUNTAIN
SECTION
NEWSLETTER

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Photos by
Jody Best



In every walk with nature,
one receives far more
than he seeks.

-John Muir

Editor's Note

Jody Best

It has been a pleasure to compile and edit this news-

letter for the SRM-IMS for the past few years. Thank

you for your encouragement and recognition. I really appreciate the award that you gave me for my work on this newsletter.

I am a bit sad to say goodbye to this task and creative

outlet, but I have many more opportunities to pursue and I think, with the website up and running, the need for a paper newsletter may have come to pass. I look forward to seeing your updates and photos on the website in the future.

We have such diversity in our landscape and our membership. I hope we will continue to recognize and celebrate this in days and years to come.

All the best in 2020!



Big Sage in South Castle, AB. Photo by Jody Best.

President's Report

Allison Martin

Greetings IMS!

I am sorry that I could not make it to the Fall meeting in Olds, as it sounds like it was a great meeting and success! Be looking for the business meeting minutes on the IMS website.

Bear with me as I transition into the president's role. Following Tracy is quite intimidating! For those of you that don't know me, Allison Martin! I live in Livingston, Montana with my husband and two little girls. I have a range degree from Montana State University. After college, I worked for the BLM as a range technician for a couple summers in Utah and Montana. I started my career as a rangeland management specialist with the NRCS in Circle, MT and Big Timber, MT. Last year I decided to take a break from the 'career' to raise my own

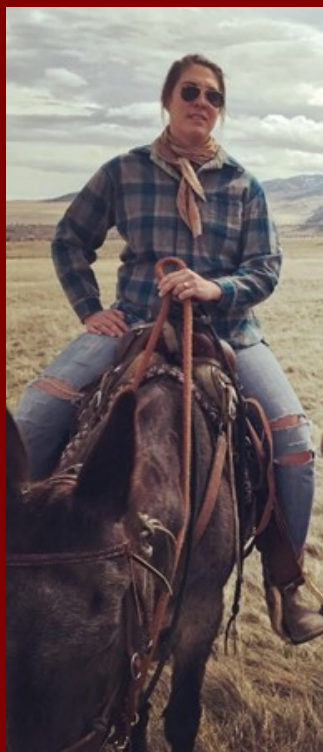
children. Well, it turns out I wasn't cut out to be a full-time stay-at-home mom either! I now do contract work monitoring conservation easements and occasional ranch/range consulting. My 'work' brings me to my most adored places in Montana, no wonder my 'absence' didn't persevere. They say it's all about a balance anyway, right?

Unfortunately, I missed the summer tour this year because I went back to WI for a family reunion and had some business to do on our tree farm. I must say rangelands are my passion but managing my own little tree farm has also been rewarding. It all comes back are one united principal; taking care of the land and it will take care of you. We (IMS) are a great team, working together as a united front

as rangeland managers! I hope we can have a little fun doing it.

Tracy did a more than great job working on items that needed attention as far as logistics and ease of our section carrying on seamlessly (and boy, was it a task to take on!). In the next year, I plan to give further attention to these details and hopefully wrap them up! The biggest action item we as a section need to work on is the revision/updates on the IMS handbook. We have come a long way since we started, so let's finish this puppy! Please email me if you are interested in helping with this endeavor (long-time members are a huge plus regarding this task).

Also, as discussed on November 1st, the amount of vacancies we have on the executive committee is a



IMS President: Allison Martin.

President's Report continued

big issue. This seems to be the new 'norm'. I think we could consolidate a couple of the executive committee chairs. This goes hand in hand with handbook revisions and a vote! Please refer to the IMS website to see all vacancies and please let me know if one of those vacancies may be a chair you could fill! I would like to have a teleconference after the first of the year (all are encouraged to engage) to align our goals and mission and keep the momentum going that Tracy worked so hard to initiate and carry forward.

Also, look for an email in January before the National meeting in Denver. We would like to set up a possible time and place to have a social hour for those who are planning to be in Denver. The evening of Monday Feb 17th would be best! I hope to see some IMS members there!

Don't forget to renew your membership before the end of the year! (Reminding myself currently as well!)

Have a great holiday season with family and friends!



Photo from Allison Martin.

Upcoming Events

SRM AGM. Feb. 16-20, 2020.
Denver Colorado.

Planning for 2021 SRM meeting in Boise Idaho has begun and needs your attention and energy!

*O, wind,
if winter comes,
can spring be far
behind?*

- Percy Bysshe Shelley

Trail Boss Award: Dr. Edward Bork

*The **Trail Boss Award** is the highest award bestowed by the International Mountain Section and is intended to recognize individual IMS members who have demonstrated significant contributions in the science or art of rangeland management.*

This year's recipient is Dr. Edward Bork from the Univer-

sity of Alberta.

Since establishing his program at the U of A in 1998, Dr. Edward Bork has made a significant contribution to range management in Canada and Internationally through his teaching, research and extension activities.

Edward is a productive scientist. He has supervised 47 graduate students, including 8 PhDs, through his research projects and in the process prepared them to become leaders in the art and science of rangeland management. Through his mentorship of his graduate students and collaboration with fellow researchers, Dr. Bork has 126 peer reviewed research papers to his credit. Furthermore, he has supported the quality of research articles by providing peer reviews and managing the peer review process as associated editor for the *Range-land, Ecology and Management* journal.

What about Edward the teacher and mentor? In the words of one of Edward's former graduate students, "as an educator Edward is unparalleled in enthusiasm". This enthusiasm is driven by a love of rangelands and of teaching and sharing his knowledge. His lectures are lively and invigorating replete with sweeping arm gesture's and

the occasional fist upon the desk. This enthusiasm finds expression in a love of debate, challenging students and colleagues. Edward is an adept academic coach with an effective communication approach in the one on one as well.

Periodically, Dr. Bork takes fourth year undergraduate students on an intense four-day field trip as part of their "capstone" course. Students meet ranchers with varied management philosophies, public land managers, they conduct range and riparian health assessments and learn about current research all of which provides them with a thorough look at landscape level management issues facing various land managers across Alberta, an important experience to "cap" their educational experience and prepare them work after graduation.

His teaching excellence has earned him recognition as ALES Teacher of the Year (recognized 7 times since 2000, including in 2016 and 2017) and North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture - Educator Award (2018).

Dr. Bork has envisioned the role of range management research in Canada as the Mattheis Chair and Director of the Rangeland Research Institute, in the AFNS Department, Faculty of ALES; through this role he has assimilated three other grassland sites into the institute, which has

Left: Dr. Edward Bork
Right: Barry Adams.
Photo from
Carly Moore.



Trail Boss Award Continued

greatly expanded the potential for research at the landscape scale. He has encouraged and attracted many researchers to conduct work at the Mattheis Ranch.

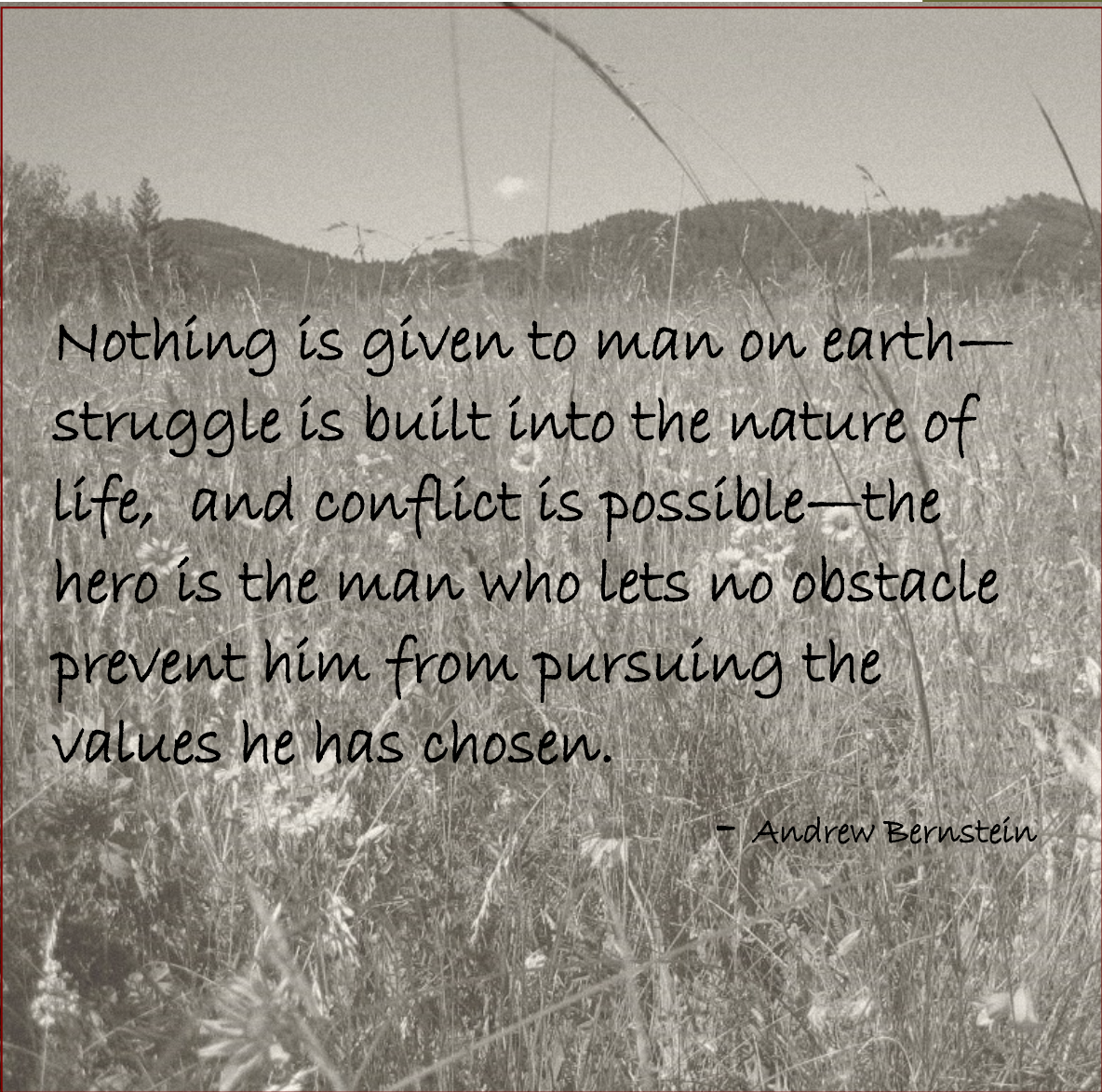
He is a much sought after speaker at local and international tours, extension events, seminars, webinars, workshops, and confer-

ences. As a scientist, Edward has striven to be relevant and to make a difference and we see this in other measures of productivity including 86 conference proceedings, 44 research reports and 246 extension and technology transfer interactions. Dr. Bork speaks to current range management issues based on his own research

findings and as a producer concerned about economics, profitability and land stewardship. He is approachable, engaging, and an excellent communicator able to bring his message to diverse audiences.

In closing, I would ask you to join me in congratulating Dr. Edward Bork, Trail Boss, 2019.

Native grassland.
Photo by Heidi Eijgel.



Nothing is given to man on earth—struggle is built into the nature of life, and conflict is possible—the hero is the man who lets no obstacle prevent him from pursuing the values he has chosen.

— Andrew Bernstein

Integrity
is the seed
for
achievement.
It is the
principle
that never
fails.

- Earl Nightingale

Alicia Hargrave Memorial Award: Hilary Baker

*The **Alicia Hargrave Memorial Award** is sponsored by the Hargrave family and the International Mountain Section to honor the memory of an extraordinary young rancher and range management professional and is given to a young woman who has shown promise early in her career to further the art and science of rangeland management.*

This year's recipient is Hilary Baker, of Pincher Creek, AB

Hilary Baker's passion for rangelands can be witnessed both in her work and in the way that she lives her everyday life. She is a graduate of the University of Alberta with a BSc in Agriculture (2014), majoring in animal science. Since graduation Hilary has gained broad work experience in the environmental field. An initial posting with Wildfire Operations (with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development) served to sharpen her logistic and organizational skills. Need something to be planned for efficiency, smooth running and safety? Ask Hilary.

Hilary came to the rangeland world in the fall of 2014 as a Rangeland Agriologist in Fort Vermillion and for the next 3 years she worked tirelessly to promote, train and convince a diverse group of stakeholders and agencies including other government agencies about the value of

rangelands and the benefits of managing and sustaining this valuable resource. Armed with the principles of range management Hilary proved her mettle and personal inner strength working in at times chal-

Alberta, further growing into her new role as Area Range Management Specialist with the Rangeland Resource Stewardship Program. With zeal and commitment she has taken on new challenges and respon-



Left: Hilary Baker. Right: Barry Adams. Photo from Carly Moore.

lenging circumstances and communities.

In 2017 Hilary moved to her present posting in SW

sibilities, expanding her range science knowledge and skills, for example including ecological classification.

Alicia Hargrave Memorial Award Continued

Hilary demonstrates the qualities of a young professional woman that the Alicia Hargrave Award aims recognizes; a passion for rangelands that is far more than just a job. Rangelands are part of her life. She is an avid outdoorsperson who spends much of her spare time in the outdoors. She is a strong teacher who shares her rangeland knowledge and passion with others freely. Her passion is infectious. A recent example was the role she took with the Alberta Rangeland plant bingo. With a team of coopera-

tors, Hilary has turned plant bingo into a highlight event of the field season. This past year there were over 60 participants actively engaged in the plant bingo competition! Participants included rangeland agronomists, range specialists, park ecologists, biologists, land use specialists, environmental partners (Alberta Conservation Association, Cows and Fish, MULTISAR), reclamation specialist, national parks staff, and consultants. The initiative has grown from a simple localized event to something that has expand-

ed outside Alberta Environment and Parks to involve a very broad network that encompasses the entire province. The internal competition, gentle teasing about photo quality of samples and their identification helps build relationships and cooperative work opportunities. The result has been improved relationships, collaboration and the reinvigoration of people's passion for rangelands.

Please join me in recognizing this year's recipient of the Alicia Hargrave Award - Hilary Baker.

Balsam root in the montane. Photo by Hilary Baker.



When
snow
falls,
nature
listens.

- Antoinette
van Kleeef

Left to right: John
Carscallen, Hilary Baker,
Jody Best, Barry Adams,
Tracy Kupchenko and
Craig DeMaere.

Certificate of Recognition: Jody Best Tracy Kupchenko

Artemisia or sagebrush is a native species on the grasslands and is known to have deep roots....maybe that's why we call folks with wisdom and history "sages"?? Allow me to tell you about a very important lady who can be described as a prairie sage."

Range Management has many definitions, but the one that resonates with many of us, is that it is both an art AND a science. I heard Lorne Fitch speak about stories once. "Stories are important- they help us navigate the world, make sense of it, see our place in it, and understand the changes in terms of benefits and consequences." He further went on to say:

"Just as prairie sage supports many creatures, the work of prairie sages - scientists, biologists, range managers, bureaucrats, and ranchers- is

foundational to prairie conservation. Our stories need to profile, absorb, and remember the legacy provided to us with their work."

For the past 10 years, Jody Best has been the editor/creator/focal point for Information gathering and sharing via the International Mountain Section newsletter. These newsletters have been works of art; they were full of information, fantastic photos, stories, poems and quotes. Her passion for rangelands is evident in everything she does. These newsletters are but one example of that.

Not only did they keep our section informed, they provided us with a sense of connection to each other and to the rangelands we work on. The photos, the stories, quotes and poems reminded the reader of the importance and fragility of rangelands and the small part each of us have in maintaining it. Jody's creative ability to find applicable, timeless quotes such as those from Ghandi, Aldo Leopold, Cicero, etc. enticed me to investigate and read more from authors she quoted.

Her beautiful photographs remind us of the small, but wonderful details we can find in the field. Details often overlooked in

our busy pursuit of "getting X number of assessments done in a day! Or driving to the next meeting." Thank you Jody for the gentle reminder to stop and smell the bluebells.

This reminds me of another quote I once heard from Mr. Fitch:

"We are formed by our surroundings, and our surroundings contain stories, that, if we learn them, form us too." - Kent Myers.

Jody, you have epitomized the "Art" in rangeland management through the creation of these newsletters. Your ability to take our often draft/rough worded stories or photos and create a memorable, thorough newsletter from it are appreciated. Our section has benefited from this amazing resource and we thank you for your time, energy, patience, persistence and willingness to share your gift with us. We recognize the amazing work you've done as a 'prairie sage.'

The International Mountain Section of SRM would like to offer you this recognition as a token of our appreciation for all that you have done to make our section a success, and we encourage you to continue to share your passion for rangelands with the world.

We wish you all the very best in all your future endeavors and hope to see your smiling face at future SRM functions.



Your IMS Executive 2019 Who's Who

President
 Past President
 1st Vice President
 2nd Vice President
 Director (MT)
 Director (AB)
 Secretary/Treasurer
 Newsletter Editor
 Youth Program Chair (MT)
 Youth Program Chair (AB)
 History Chairperson
 Membership Committee Chair
 Awards Committee Chair (MT)
 Awards Committee Chair (AB)
 Nomination Committee Chair
 Public Affairs Committee Chair
 Social Media
 Website Communications Chair
 Young Professionals Conclave Rep

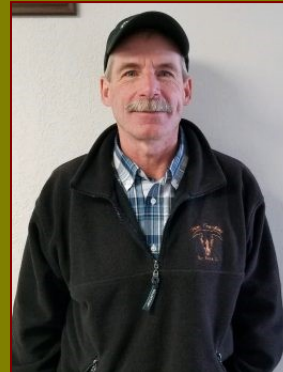
Allison Martin
 Tracy Kupchenko
 Jennifer Caudron
 Rick Caquelin
 vacant
 Jillian Kaufman
 Lisa Raatz
 vacant
 Allison Martin
 Tracy Kupchenko
 Donna Lawrence
 vacant
 Jon Siddoway
 Barry Adams
 vacant
 vacant
 Kassia James
 Carly Moore
 Josh Hanson



Allison



Tracy



Rick



Jillian



Lisa



Jennifer

