

Society for Range Management



Utah Section Newsletter

Spring 2015

<http://www.utsrm.org>

SRM Utah Section Newsletter

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Notes from the President

Steve Deeter

Greetings from Sierra La Sal.

The only problem with cohabitating with the Utah SRM secretary is all she has to do is bop me a couple of times in order for me to get myself in gear to write this President's message.

It has been three and a half months since our fall meeting. I would like to thank everyone who presented and participated in the meeting. I especially want to thank the students who attended. They are the future leaders of our rangelands and the SRM.

We've had a really good snow year thus far. We need Ma Nature to keep up the snows in the mountain and do away with the high winds. I for one am grateful for an above normal snowpack.

Maxine and I were registered for the annual meeting in Corpus Christi, but we had a family crisis come up and also some health problems that were unexpected, so we had to cancel. We now have a credit with United Airlines as they would not refund our tickets. Hawaii sounds nice!

There are some vacancies on various committees that need to be filled and soon, especially with the Utah Section hosting the annual meeting in St. George in 2017. The membership committee chairman is probably one of the most important at this time. We all know professional Rangeland Specialists or related field personnel that are not members and could be valuable assets to our section.

We will also need all the volunteers that we can rustle up to help Tom Monaco and Randall Violette (co-chairs for the 2017 meeting) put this meeting together and make it a success. This is a great opportunity to meet people from all over the country and world and share ideas and information. See Randall's message in this newsletter.

The section really needs your help in filling these committee chairs and working with Tom and Randall to make the 2017 National SRM meeting a real success. I think this is an exciting opportunity for all of us.





Team Winners

Plant ID: 1st USU, 2nd BYU, 3rd SUU

URME: 1st BYU, 2nd USU, 3rd SUU

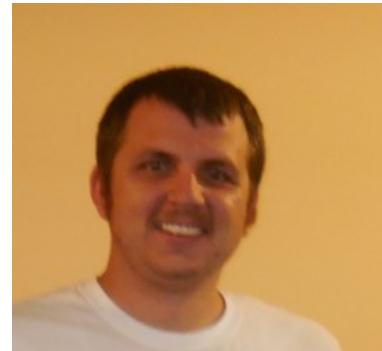
Combined: 1st BYU, 2nd USU, 3rd SUU



Plant ID Winners: (l-r) 3rd Cicily Fitch BYU
(not shown -2nd Natalie Blane UVU)
1st Camille Waters USU



URME Winners (l-r) 3rd Brianne Palmer USU
2nd Devin Wordsworth BYU
1st Alysa Defranco BYU



Combined Winners 1st Alysa DeFranco BYU, 2nd Camile Waters USU, 3rd Devin Wadsworth BYU



Beth Burritt, SRM Utah Section President, gives the President's Award to Frank (affectionately known to everyone as Fee) Busby for his years of dedicated service to the Section and especially serving the up and coming youth for decades.

A Well Deserved Award!



Beth Burritt hands over the “reins” of leadership to new President, Steve Deeter



Big thanks to outgoing Section President Beth Burritt for her service. Presented by incoming President Steve Deeter



Slate Stewart (l) and Tom Monaco (r) present Rancher of the Year Award to Justus and Brittney Redd who with their father and husband, Lowry Redd, own and operate La Sal Livestock Company in La Sal, Utah

RANCHER OF THE YEAR

Justus Lowry and Brittany Redd of Moab and La Sal Utah owners and operators of La Sal Livestock in San Juan County.

Lowry took over this portion of his father's operation in 1998 and has operated it for the past 17 years. Lowry is the 3rd generation in his family with La Sal Livestock

The operation is comprised of 235,000 acres of native range, and 10,000 acres of seeded pasture. The Redds run 650 head of mother cows, 55 bulls and 100 yearlings and 15 horses.

A year and a half ago Lowry entered into a collaborative group in preparation for upcoming 10 year permit renewals on both his BLM and Forest Service grazing allotments. This was also in preparation for splitting part of the La Sal Livestock operation to handoff to his sister and brother-in-law, Beverly and Luis Trevizo, BLT Cattle, who have ran in common with Lowry with an additional 232 head of cattle. Lowry was hesitant in the beginning, as most would be, to expose his whole operation to a group made-up of representatives from Grand Canyon Trust, Sierra Club, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Trout Unlimited, San Juan County, Utah Department of Agriculture & Food, and La Sal Mountain Rangeland Consulting, Lowry jumped in with both feet and the La Sal Sustainability Collaboration (LSSC) was formed. Lowry has attended monthly meetings with the whole group plus additional meetings and trainings monthly in order to educate himself to better understand and contribute to the process. He has worked hard to be fair with the split, and open to new ideas and perspectives, while sharing openly and honestly. Lowry believes in the Grazing Management Principles of "Time, Timing, & Intensity" and has spent many hours over the past 18 months trying to further integrate these into his operation making proposals and entertaining those of others to change and improve upon past management practices. He has worked closely over the past year with the land management agency staff to improve his management practices and to improve his understanding of their responsibilities building a greater working relationship with agency staff. LSSC resource experts have attended nearly all group meetings to offer guidance to the group's efforts. The resource experts are: representatives from the USFS, BLM, NRCS, San Juan CD, USFWS, SITLA and UDAF/UDWQ. Throughout this process Lowry has maintained respect for and the respect of all those involved while recognizing areas he could and can improve and openly discussing and seeking advice on how to implement improvements to him personally, as he has repeatedly stated "because it's all personal", to his Range Management practices, and to his livestock operation.

Lowry owns and operates a 100% rangeland cow/calf operation. As such he has developed and holds a great love and respect for the land from which he makes a living and supports his family. He recognizes the importance of a healthy landscape and how practicing proper grazing/range management practices contribute to them. He also recognizes that others with differing perspectives also hold strong feelings for the same lands, and have the right to use and enjoy them too. Lowry believes strongly that there is room out there for all of us if we work together and respect one another. His goals in the LSSC have been made clear; leave the La Sal Livestock Operation to his daughters in even better shape than he received it, a tall order thanks to his father, through reputation, relationships, and ecological-economical-social sustainability. Improve communications; make things better for the greater livestock industry both locally and west wide through sound practices. Lastly and most important protect and improve the land while responsibly harvesting the resources God has given to produce a quality product. Lowry is adamant that "[he is] an active environmentalist but not an environmental activist".

Rancher of the Year continued: Lowry works to improve the health and genetics of his base herd through sire selection and using the most up to date vaccination practices as well as through a heifer operation using AI. He works to diversify both the market and marketability of his calves from traditional contract marketing to now exploring and pursuing local markets of locally grown grass fed beef, to maintaining flexibility through retained ownership and feeding out calves to greater weight classes targeting different buyers. Over the past year and a half Lowry has repeatedly expressed his belief in the livestock industry, the important role that ranchers and the ranching industry plays in and contributes to maintaining the culture of the greatest country in the world which was built on the back of agriculture, especially the culture of the west which was built on agriculture and range management.

Lowry, as a rancher and range manager has shown incredible innovation, over the past 12-18 months, through his proposals and openness to a diversity of viewpoints pertaining to his 100% range operation. One practice is to build drought resilience into the ranch through a yearling operation. He has shared his knowledge of the livestock industry, range management and the La Sal Livestock's operation openly and openly accepted criticisms, suggestions, and knowledge of experts from a wide range of a variety of expertise pertaining to range management and has shown a willingness to find ways to apply the principles of rangeland management and the science on the ground.

Lowry was nominated for this award by Slate Stewart.



Beth Burritt (l) and Tom Monaco (r) present Range Manager of the Year Award to Charles (Chuck) Gay

Range Manager of the Year

Recipient of the 2015 Utah Section SRM Range Management of the Year Award is Charles "Chuck" Gay. Chuck holds a bachelor's degree in Forest Management/Forest Resources Management and a Master's degree in Range Science and Management, both from Oklahoma State University.

From 1964 to 1968 Chuck was employed by New Mexico State University as the first Range Management Extension Specialist in the university's history working with ranchers and agency personnel in the development of ranch and rangeland management plans. From 1969 to 1972 he was Chief of Party for New Mexico State University's livestock development project in Paraguay.

Chuck was employed by Collier Cob and Associates as General Manager of their agricultural division from 1973 to 1979. During that time period he was consultant to Chesapeake International Corporation for their ranching operations in South America.

Chuck was Vice President of Gay Sales and Service, Inc. in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a family business of industrial gasses, steel fabrication and welding supplies from 1979 to 1983. From 1983 to 1986, he was employed by Utah State University as Associate Chief of Party on the Range Management Improvement Project in Morocco. Chuck was Research Assistant Professor of Range Science at Utah State University in 1986 and 1987. He was Acting Department head for Range Science at Utah State University in 1987 and 1988 and Assistant Dean for the College of Natural Resources at USU from 1989 to 2002. He is presently Emeritus Extension Associate Professor, USU.

Chuck has been a member of the SRM for many years. He was nominated for this award by Beth Burritt of USU.



Young Range Professional

Jacob “Jake” Owens was the recipient of the SRM 2015 Young Range Professional Award. He received a bachelor’s degree in Biology with a minor in Natural Resources from BYU Idaho in 2006 and a Masters Degree in Range Science from Utah State University in 2008. Other trainings include Managing for Excellence, Conservation Planning Part 2, Pasture Management, Utah Irrigation 101, Management Intensive Gazing, Conservation Planning Part 1, Range Conservation Workshop and Soil Data Viewer training, Range Ecology II, Utah Range Short Course, Range Health, Conservation Planning Refresher, Cultural Resources Part 1, Cultural Resources Modules 7 & 8 and ATV Training.

Jake has been employed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as a Range Management Specialist for the last eight years. He spent three and a half of those years developing Ecological Site Descriptions for soil surveys and four years developing conservation plans with land managers.

His current position is as a Range Management Specialist with the NRCS at the Manti/Ephraim Office. His area of responsibility covers Sanpete, Sevier, Wayne and Piute Counties. Jake writes 10 – 15 conservation plans a year on a variety of different range types, from winter grazing below 5,000 feet to grazing systems above 9,000 feet in elevation.

Jake is capable of working with diverse collaborators to design both traditional and progressive rangeland management practices. For example, he has implemented management intensive grazing (MIG) systems on large cattle operations, goat chees operations, and even a pig grazing operation which he dubbed a “Pig MIG”. He has worked effectively with diverse partners, including the USFS, BLM, SITLA, DWR, GIP, private land owners, and the Koosharem Band of Paiutes to improve rangeland management in Utah. Jake has observed and addressed land management concerns on rangelands, wetlands, and riparian areas, through technical assistance as well as administering many of the Farm Bill programs.

Jake maintains a working knowledge of the ecological and management principles of rangelands in the intermountain west. He is an enthusiastic student of the land and developed dozens of ecological site descriptions throughout Utah. Jake also has significant knowledge about wildlife and agronomy, and has designed pasture systems with wheel lines and pivots.

Jake was instrumental in bringing together NRCS with DWR, counties and private landowners for the 47,000 acre Wood Hollow fires. Through Jake’s leadership, over 25,000 acres were seeded, 16,000 acres were chained and fencing was replaced for nine different operations. Jake is often consulted by his colleagues to help develop alternatives for land management.

Recently Jake has been working with the USFS and permittees on three allotments to replace interior fences and improve grazing. This is new territory for NRCS to work on public land, and Jake’s outgoing personality and excellent knowledge of rangeland science enable him to provide effective leadership in these new applications of rangeland conservation and management.

Jake organized and led a tour of the Wood Hollow fire rehab project for the 2013 Society of Range Management summer tour. Since February 2013, Jake has served as the Treasurer of the Utah Section SRM. He co-organized the 2011 SRM ESD Development Workshop in Billings, Montana and presented a talk entitled “Creating and Using Ecological Site Extent Maps for ESD Enhancement”. Jake presented the results of his thesis results at the SRM Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 2009 entitled “Influence of Supplemental Legumes that Contain Tannins and Saponins on Intake and Diet Digestibility in Sheep Fed Grasses that Contain Alkaloids”.

Jake is the best horse trainer in Gunnison Valley. His latest project was to train a donkey to lead and ride in which he was fully successful. Jake is committed to church service and has been active as a Boy Scout leader. Jamin Johanson nominated Jake for this award. Jake lives in Gunnison, Utah. He is married and the father of two daughters.



Message from Randall Violett Co-chair with Tom Monaco for the 2017 Annual Meeting in St. George

We had a great meeting in Corpus Christi and learned what we need to do in putting together our meeting. Here is a save the date announcement that I had put on a magnet so people could stick them on their refrigerators once they got home. You can cut this one out and stick in on the refrigerator.

Tom has signed and returned the MOU back to the parent society. The conference coordinator hired by the parent society is still working out the room blocks and hotel contracts but we as a section need to start thinking about: Session topics; Plenary speakers and Tour locations. We will have a conference call with all of our committee leads in the next month or so.

We still need volunteers to help with this meeting, so we invite you to come on board. Call Tom or me at:

Tom Monaco (435) 797-7231
tom.monaco@ars.usda.gov

Randall Violett (435) 586-1923
randallviolett@suu.edu



2016 SRM Advisory Council Meeting

The Advisory Committee (AC) met on Sunday, January 31, 2016.

The 2015 AC's recommendations to the SRM Board of Directors (BOD) were:

Evaluate how committees address the goals and objectives of the SRM strategic plan and their effectiveness – At the time of the 2016 meeting, the BOD was updating committee information on the website and evaluating how chairs are appointed. The AC also recommended that committees present a verbal report to the BOD each year.

Adopt an annual renewal process for members and to distribute funds to Sections annually - Completed

Randal Violett updated the AC on the 2017 SRM Annual Meeting in St. George, Utah. The theme is "Red Rocks and Rangelands" and will be held January 29 through February 2. Range tours in Utah and Arizona will be held in conjunction with the meeting. The 10th International Rangeland Congress will be held this summer, July 16-22, 2016, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

This year was the 50th anniversary of the High School Youth Forum program overview. SRM is the only professional society with a program for participants under 18 to attend and present at an international conference.

SRM is finally getting a new website. The current site is woefully outdated and confusing. The new site will be designed by 2 Dogs Media using Wordpress. The new format will allow the site to be easily updated by our members. There is a possibility that SRM will be able to host section sites in the future.

New membership brochures are being developed for, rancher, early career, and student members. You can view them at: utsrm.org/membership/. Constructive comments and suggestions should be sent to Sandy Wyman via email at: wymansk@gmail.com

In 2013, SRM launched Stewardship (rangelands.org/stewardship.shtml) for practitioners. Unfortunately, Stewardship has not received enough submissions to continue. The BOD asked the AC to generate a recommendation for a publication aimed at practitioners. The AC agreed that based on SRM guiding principles, SRM needs to provide a venue for members to communicate with other practitioners. The AC questioned why both Rangelands and Range Ecology and Management only published academic articles. Rangelands used to be more of a practitioners publication. The AC suggested that Rangelands or a portion of Rangelands carry practitioner articles with an appropriate review process.

Nevada Section presented a recommendation to create reciprocal memberships with other organizations. This would allow members of SRM to attend meetings and events of these organizations at member rates and will likely increase exposure of SRM to other groups. The AC supported the Nevada Section to provide leadership in this endeavor and to work in conjunction with the membership taskforce, membership committee and SRM liaisons.

This year AC only met for one day instead of a day and a half. In 2015, the AC held two teleconferences, which allowed the AC to shorten our yearly face-to face meeting. The consensus was that the teleconferences were useful. Two dates were set for bi-annual calls: May 26th at 10 am MST and January 12 at 10 am MST

For 2016, Jill Burkhart will serve as the AC Chairperson. Nicki Rife is Chairperson-elect.



Membership Information

Memberships

New members: To pay online, please review the membership options below. When you have decided on a selection, you can then click "Add to Cart" to add the membership to your shopping cart. Once the membership appears in your shopping cart, you can then add a subscription to *Rangelands* and *REM* before checking out.

New Members: [click here](#) and let us know how you heard about us!

Renewing members: Please [login](#) to renew your membership online. Once you are logged in, you may add the available membership to your shopping cart. Once the membership appears in your shopping cart, you can then add a subscription to *Rangelands* and *REM*. Contact information and demographics can be updated under "Member Profile."

All members, new and renewing, also have the option to pay by post; to do so, then please complete the [Membership Form](#) and send it with payment to the below address.

Society for Range Management
Business Office
P.O. Box 1897
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Please contact us directly (membership@rangelands.org or 785-865-9456) if you qualify for the following SRM [membership rates](#)
Emeritus, Un-Sectioned, Commercial, Institutional

Membership Applications Forms:

[Online Membership Application](#)

[Printable New Member Application \(pdf\)](#)

[Printable New Member Student Application \(pdf\)](#) [Student Verification Form \(pdf\)](#)

[Printable International Application \(pdf\)](#)

[Printable International Application Country List \(pdf\)](#)

