

Southern Trails



Note From the Editor Katrina O'Farrell

I am a "people person"! A trait, no doubt, I got from my Father. It used to amaze me how we could go anywhere and he would either find someone he knew or would talk to random strangers, only to find out that they had a mutual acquaintance. I started working in Cass County Missouri in 2003, 200 miles from home. My Dad came to visit and was chatting with the District Technican, come to find out they both sat the bench at the same game (but on opposite teams) of a high school state championship basketball game in 1966! It's not so strange to me anymore, because I find the same thing happening to me! I love to meet new people and hear about their stories and thoughts on life. So naturally my FAVORITE part of this newsletter is the Spotlight! I really appreciate everyone who has shared with us via the spotlight, I hope that everyone else is enjoying them as well. It can be rather difficult to connect to each other when our section is so vast!

Please email me any other suggestions that I can incorporate into the newsletter to achieve more connections would be greatly appreciated! I really want to know what you think!

Or to even know if anyone reads this thing!

Happy Trails! ~Katrina

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SOUTHERN SECTION MEMBERS

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!

WE NEED, ARTICLES, INFO, EVENTS

&

RESOURCES FROM YOU TO SHARE

Spotlight Member Elizabeth "Lizzie" King

Where are you from, where do you reside now?

I'm from Gainesville, Florida and now live in Athens, Georgia. In between I've spent years in Oregon, California, Kenya, and even New Jersey.

Tell us about your family:

I'm Estonian-American; my mom and her family came to the U.S. after the Soviet Union took over the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. I went there for the first time in 2011, and was amazed by the beauty of the rural landscape -- 1000-year old hay meadows and pastures, with some of the highest plant diversity in the world (up to 80 plant species per square meter!)

Occupation:

I'm a rangeland ecologist and restoration ecologist. I'm an Assistant Professor at the University of Georgia, jointly appointed in the Odum School of Ecology and the Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources. I'm interested in drylands and pastoralist social-ecological systems, particularly in Kenya, where I've been working for 20 years.



What year did you join SRM?

I can't remember exactly, but it was around 2009. I was never in a rangeland or natural resources department, so I was fairly late to learn that SRM was such a useful community to be a part of.

What SRM Committees, Offices, Activities are you serving on or have served in the past?

I attend annual meetings when I can, and as past-chair of the Rangeland Ecology Section of the Ecological Society of America, I have been a part of efforts to increase connections between the two groups.



What do you enjoy most about being a member of SRM?

The connection to other rangeland ecologists and managers. I'm the only rangeland ecologist in either of my departments at UGA, and I don't have any rangeland projects going on in the Southeast (yet!), so I rely on SRM to hear about events and to keep current with what's going on in the rangeland world. I look forward to making a lot of new connections through the Southern Chapter.

Tell about a favorite SRM memory, funny story and/or Conference experience:

Like me, I'm sure many of the Southern Chapter members got a kick out of seeing all the students from very cold places having such a blast in Orlando last year. While the other tourist guests seemed dismayed that it was a little chilly for their Florida vacation, our students were poolside in shorts, smiling, relaxing, and getting to know new friends. I was sitting outside near the pool, and some grumpy couple walked past me clutching their windbreakers around themselves. They looked at the students, and one muttered to the other "they must be crazy!" I chimed in, "Or maybe they're just grateful. I think they're from Wyoming!" And I felt just as grateful myself. I left Georgia right before a 3-day ice and snowstorm hit. Since I live on a dead end road across a steep ravine, I had friends calling me to see if I was alright, if I could get out, if I had power, or if I needed anything. Their sympathy ended quickly when I told them I was at a Caribbean-themed resort in Orlando and doing just fine, thank you!

What do you enjoy in your Spare Time/Interests/Hobbies:

I love to travel and learn how other people view the world, whether it's a little town a few miles away in Georgia, or the steppes of Mongolia. Everyone has a story. Big or small, they're all meaningful. And as an ecologist, I love to see all the different ways nature organizes itself. There's so much to learn from every interaction with humanity and nature. I haven't ever really been bored since I was about 11 years old.

I also like making mead (honey wine), and lately, agave nectar wine too. I started brewing beer in college, but living in Kenya, the local brew was made with honey... so one thing led to another... It takes longer to mature, but is well worth the wait! Some say that the word "honeymoon" refers to mead: way back in the day, newlywed couples were given a month's supply of mead to make sure the marriage got off to a good start!



We Need You! Elections 2015



Southern Section is in need of new leadership!

We need YOU to step up and serve!

Nominations & Volunteers are needed for the following
Positions for the 2015 year!

The Current Officers have been gratefully volunteering for many-a- year
and need a well-deserved break!

Without New Volunteers, the section is in threat of remaining dormant or even worse...

SOOO... I HOPE that we have several people step up and we can have elections...if
not let's aim to have at least one volunteer to fill each position! We really need some in-
spiring leadership to revive this section with new ideas and re-kindled connections!

I have a feeling that YOU are out there... So just say YES and help motivate the rest of
us to participate and thrive.

NOMINATION FORM

President – (organize & lead meetings, correspond with other officers) _____

President Elect – (Will fill president position in 2016) _____

Executive Secretary – (newsletter, record minutes of meetings, organize reports & election information) _____

3 Council Positions represent the section at annual council meetings (next year we will catch up and only elect 1 new one)

1-3yr term _____

1-2yr term _____

1-1yr term _____



Volunteer or Send Nomination by May 30th to
Katrina O'Farrell

katrina.ofarrell@mo.usda.gov,
call 660-492-3851 (leave message)

Or mail 14776 NE Co Rd 754

Montrose, MO 64770



2015 SRM Annual Conference—Sacramento CA



On Saturday Jan. 31st. 11:00 AM to 8:00pm Southern Section Members Maurice & Gloria Davis traveled through the Silicon Valley to an open space park land in the Garin Regional Park in the East Bay area for the

URBAN OPEN SPACE

GRAZING MANAGEMENT TOUR

The total area was approx. 100,000 ac and most of it, about 77,000 ac was utilized as grazing land. The entire area is open to the public for recreational activities but dually used for grazing land.

"We saw a steady stream of people all day long! They were hiking, biking, horseback riding & didn't seem to mind the cow paddies along the trails at all!"

~Maurice Davis

In this barn, a multitude of speakers from various agencies and livestock owners who run livestock on these Parks Lands spoke about the role they play in this unique urban meets rangeland operation.

It was very interesting to see how the public, the animals & the ranchers interacted." ~Gloria Davis

After a long day in the Park, visit we went to Fisherman's Warf, Pier 39 in San Francisco for time on our own.



Garin Regional Park)



2015 SRM Annual Conference—Sacramento CA

On Wednesday Feb. 4th Southern Section Members Maurice & Gloria Davis took the all day Tour to the

SIERRA FOOTHILL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER.

This tour included the station including presentations about the station, annual rangelands and current research. During the bus ride to the station members learned about Sacramento Valley agriculture, the Gold Rush, and California rangelands.



Yearly steers grazing on a study for "The Role of Habitat and Density for Medusahead Control"



Tour Leaders were giving historical back ground and the current research being done at this station

Located on the Yuba River and spanning river, grassland, oak woodland and riparian habitat types, the center supports programs on beef cattle production, nutrition and health, rangeland water quality management, grazing management, oak woodland restoration, and invasive plant manage-

The 5,000-acre University of California Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center, located 60 miles northeast of Sacramento, was established in 1960 as the UC Sierra Foothill Field Station. The center has supported research, education and outreach in the Sierra foothills for well over half a century.



The headquarters of the UC Foothill Field Station

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

The Southern Trails

will be published quarterly, (March, June, September, December)

Please submit articles, workshops, resources & other info to katrina.ofarrell@mo.usda.gov to be considered for publication.

~Next Issue Date 6/30/2015~

~ Article/Info Due Date 6/01/2015~

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Calendar of Events

Missouri Grazing Schools - April - October 2015

<http://mofgc.org/schools.html>

Small Ruminant Field Day (Louisiana)

Small Ruminant Field Day April 18

Maurice A. Edmunds Livestock Arena, Baker, LA

contact Sebhatu Gebrelul at (225)-771-3841 or

Sebhatu_gebrelul@suagcenter.com

Arkansas Forage & Grassland Council 2015 Bus Tour

April 24th 2015 Pocahontas, AR

contact the Cooperative Extension office in

Randolph County (870) 892-4504 or

Lawrence County (870) 886-3741

Northwest Beef and Forage Field Day

Tuesday, April 28

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Red River Research Station

262 Research Station Drive, Bossier City, LA

Mississippi Forage Events <http://forages.pss.msstate.edu/events.html>

Southern Pasture and Forage Crop Improvement Conference

March 30-April 1, 2015 Apalachicola, FL

Please send any upcoming 2015 events for the next quarter (June– Sept)

Resources

Fire Info: http://www.firescience.gov/JFSP_consortia.cfm

Soil Health Webinars: <http://conservationwebinars.net/>

[webinar](#) by Jay Fuhrer on carbon cycling and hayland

The National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service

<https://attra.ncat.org/index.php>

