C-6 Forage and Grazinglands Division Highlights

The preliminary meeting program can be found at http://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2013am/webprogrampreliminary/programs.html

C-6 will be sponsoring two exciting tours and one workshop this year!

Tour 1: Behind the Scenes of Busch Gardens – Sunday, Nov. 3rd - 8:00 am–12:30 pm

Join us on a behind-the-scenes tour led by the heads of the horticulture and animal nutrition departments at Busch Gardens Tampa. You will get to see how the horticulture department crafts the ever-changing spectacular plant displays around the Park, explore the state-of-the-art composting system where Busch Gardens recycles plant and animal waste into rich soil. You will spend time in the zoo nutrition center where the diets for over 2,000 animals (ranging from aardvarks to zebras) are prepared each day, and take a safari truck out on their veldt - home to free-roaming herds of giraffe, rhinos, zebras, antelope and other animals from the African Serengeti to see how their horticulture and animal nutrition departments work together to provide a healthy landscape for their visitors and animals. This tour will be 4 hours long and handicapped-accessible. Lunch will be included. Passes to visit Busch Gardens Theme Park following the tour are not included in the tour fee.

Tour 2: South Florida Grazinglands Tour - Sunday, Nov. 3rd - 6:30 am – 5:00 pm

The tour will include stops at a Grazing Dairy, Beef/Wildlife Ranch and the UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona, FL. The tour will expose the participants to subtropical ecosystems with improved warm-season grass and legume pastures and native grasslands in South Florida. A steak dinner will be provided at the UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center.
Workshop - Beyond Grazing: Analysis of Grazing Trial Data with SAS ®
Sunday, Nov. 3rd- 8:00 am–5:00 pm

Sponsored by Div. C06 Forage and Grazinglands, Biometry and Statistical Computing Section, Statistical Education/Training for Researchers Community

The objective of this workshop is to provide participants with a hands-on learning experience of data analysis for grazing trials. Participants will learn how to effectively organize trial data using an anticipatory approach. We will also teach a stepwise approach to data analysis that separates data entry and verification from evaluating underlying statistical assumptions and estimation of treatment differences. Mixed models methodology will be used and include analysis of repeated measures designs. There will be four 2-hr modules. No more than 75 minutes of each module will be devoted to the presentation; the remaining time for each module will allow for plenty of opportunity for hands-on learning.

Additional information about the tours and workshop can be found at:

https://www.acsmeetings.org/tours-workshops#Forage

Forage and Grazinglands symposium to highlight belowground processes – Monday, November 4th- 8:25 AM-11:45 AM

We will kick our division program off with the 2013 C-6 symposium entitled “Belowground Processes in Grazinglands: Linking Grassland Management and Ecological Research”, which will be held on Monday, November 4th from 8:25 AM-11:45 AM. Goal of this session is to provide an overview of current research exploring belowground processes in grazinglands. Topics will cover subjects like carbon sequestration, root dynamics and rhizosphere processes among others. Speakers from agronomic and ecological fields will present to assess areas where these groups could benefit from future collaboration. Invited speakers include: Alan Franzluebbers from USDA-ARS in Raleigh, NC; Doug Frank from Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY; Michael Strickland from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA; Jennifer Moore-Kucera from Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX; Catherine Bonin from Iowa State University, Ames IA; and Friedhelm Taube from University of Kiel, Kiel, Germany.
Robert F Barnes Graduate Student Contest – Monday, November 4th - 1:00 PM-4:55 PM

The Robert F Barnes Graduate Education Competition follows the Symposium on Monday, November 4th from 1:00 PM-4:55 PM. This competition recognizes graduate students who make outstanding oral paper presentations in the Forage and Grazinglands Division at the Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) annual meetings. The awards acknowledge the career and vision of the late Dr. Robert F Barnes, who served as a USDA-ARS forage scientist and administrator from 1959 to 1986, before serving as ASA-CSSA-SSSA Executive Vice President from 1986 to 1999. Competition will be open to all graduate students who chose to submit abstracts to the Division C-6 program and the CSSA annual meeting. Selection of award recipients is based on the quality of the oral presentation and the contribution of research to the Division C-6 fields of study. The goal of the fund is to recognize, encourage, and attract new educators, scientists, and practitioners to the division and its areas of study. This year’s competition will feature 14 graduate student presentations from across the USA. Please make every effort to attend this session and support the future leaders of the Forage and Grazinglands division.

Special Session: Martin and Ruth Massengale Lectureship. Tuesday, November 5th- 8:30 AM-9:30 AM

The lectureship was established by Martin and Ruth Massengale to support a distinguished scientist who has made significant contributions to new and innovative research in crop physiology and metabolism, turfgrass science, or forage and grazing lands. This year C6 is sponsoring the Lectureship featuring Dr. Mark McCaslin from Forage Genetics International in Nampa, ID. Dr. McCaslin will be speaking on “The Use of Metabolic Engineering to Improve Forage Quality in Alfalfa”.

Volunteered Paper Sessions: Tuesday, November 5th

In Tampa this year, Division C6 will host two volunteer paper sessions. We will have one oral session for 13 volunteered papers on Tuesday, November 5th running from 10:25 AM to 3:25 PM. Following the oral session, over 40 posters will be on display from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM.
Forage Roundtable: Guest Speaker Dr. Fred Provenza – Wednesday, November 6th- 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

The Forage Roundtable will be held on Wednesday, November 6th from 10:00 AM-11:00 AM. The Forage Roundtable provides an opportunity to recognize our Robert F Barnes Competition award winners and to provide a forum for the open and frank discussion of current issues facing forage-livestock agriculture. This year’s keynote speaker is Dr. Fred Provenza - Emeritus Professor of Animal Behavior and Management at Utah State University. For the past 30 years, Fred Provenza’s team has produced groundbreaking research that has laid the foundation for what is now known as behavior-based management of livestock, wildlife and landscapes. His talk will surely be thought provoking and stimulate much discussion. Please plan to attend and help us recognize the Robert F Barnes Competition award winners and listen to Dr. Provenza’s insights on livestock behavior and landscape management.

C-6 Business Meeting – Wednesday, November 6th

The C-6 Business Meeting will immediately follow the Forage Roundtable in the same meeting room running from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM. Although business meetings are not the highlight of scientific conferences, they are an essential component of societal meetings that allow members to stay abreast of both societal and division business. I would encourage everyone to attend the business meeting and help chart the future course of our division.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Tampa. If you have questions about the C-6 Division or its program, please feel free to contact me at bfrtracy@vt.edu.

Sincerely,

Ben Tracy
C-6 Division Chair 2013