We are finally getting a taste of spring in Cache Valley after a long, cold, wet winter. I need to remind myself as I struggle against freezing canyon headwinds each morning that the extra water from this winter will reduce drought conditions, fill depleted reservoirs, and improve habitats for our wildland critters. With the coming of spring, we celebrate the best winter recreation year in decades.

We recognized achievements by students at the awards banquet in March by providing over 60 scholarships valued at more than $100,000 to deserving students (p. 6). The Quinney College celebrated the career contributions of two faculty who received prestigious University awards (p. 7). Department Head Mike Kuhns received the E.G. Peterson Award, recognizing Mike’s outstanding career as an extension specialist in Forestry. Dr. Charles Hawkins, professor in Watershed Sciences, received the D. Wynne Thorne Award for his research accomplishments during a 35-year career at Utah State University.

We hope you are getting your gardens ready and your binoculars poised for the spring migration. Please let us know if you will be visiting Logan this summer. We would love to visit and give you a tour of the ever-changing campus.

Chris Luecke, Dean
NR Week

NR Week Activities

The aroma of bacon and syrup filled our atrium to kick off Natural Resources Week on Monday with the Loggers Breakfast. This annual event was hosted by the USU Forestry Club and fed students from around campus a hearty meal of eggs, flapjacks, potatoes, bacon, and fruit.

On Tuesday the Range Society treated the campus to a Dutch oven lunch of cheezy potatoes and desserts. On Tuesday evening, Sara Koenigsberg, presented her movie Beaver Believers. This award winning documentary featured members of QCNR faculty Nick Bouwes, Joe Wheaton, and Wally MacFarlane highlighting their work to restore streams using beaver as nature’s engineers. The movie will be available on Netflix later this year. Nick, Joe, and Wally fit right in with the 60-year old protagonist, Sherri Tipple, a tequila swilling, hairdresser from Denver. Beaver Believers is an enjoyable watch with a strong environmental message.

The Empty Bowls annual fundraiser for the Cache Valley Food bank was a great success. Casey Trout and members of Student Organization for Society and Natural Resources worked with local businesses and students from the Caine College of the Arts to serve soups in handmade bowls. The lunch raised over $600 for the food bank and fed students, staff and faculty from across campus. Thanks go out to the SOSNR club and the students from the Caine College whose artistic ceramics made the event a great success.
Charles Mann

Charles C. Mann, award winning author and environmental historian, gave a thoughtful and humorous presentation on our current environmental situation to a packed house of students and faculty from across campus.

Mann, author of the 1491 and 1493 books on pre- and post-Columbian times in North America, described the dilemma of reconciling a preservationist approach to climate change with efforts to geo-engineer our way to a better future. His comparison of Norman Borlaug, wizardly father of the green agricultural revolution, with environmental prophet, William Vogt, provided a backdrop to our current crisis in food, water, energy, and climate. Mann concluded that a thoughtful combination of using new technologies while heeding the concerns of environmental preservation shows the most promise for our future world.

Chacos and Tacos

Momma LongLegs, QCNR’s house band, played a rousing 2-hour set of Americana music for students and faculty to celebrate this year’s NR Week activities. The music was fine, the tacos sublime, and we ended in rhyme. Street tacos were provided by the excellent cooks and servers from Costa Vida. Over 100 students, faculty and staff enjoyed a lazy Friday afternoon in our refurbished atrium.
Clubs Help Students Gain Hands-on Experience

Fire Club

The USU Fire Club sent 5 students, Jordan Hanson, Amber Ellis, Loretta Smith, Jake Johnson, and Ty Siepert, to conduct prescribed burns in New Jersey over spring break. The students had a great experience, learning about new ecosystems and new ways of conducting prescribed fire, and interacting with fantastic hosts from the New Jersey Forest Fire Service. They even got to tour Philadelphia and go on a helicopter ride. In their own words, following are excerpts from summaries of the trip that each student wrote:

“Getting to work in a different fuel type and climate and to see how the fire responded was very interesting and educational, particularly for my future career.” --Smith.

“One of the coolest moments was when they showed us a field that was burnt only a year before and it was great to see the regrowth and why management was so important with all the homes in the area. Honestly the dudes only wanted to talk fire, it was really cool to see people loving their jobs and made me excited to work in the future.” --Siepert

“This is a great trip for anyone who is trying to decide if they want to get into wildland fire. It was also an important opportunity to understand how fire is handled in different parts of the country. It was also interesting to see the WUI environment that these firefighters deal with every day.” --Ellis

“Great trip. Would love to do it again. Gained great experience from people. Made a lot of connections with people out there.” --Johnson

“Trips like this one should become an annual thing and the more support we can get means the more students the club can bring and allow for them to gain valuable experience. Not only is it great experience but the potential for networking and future employment is high, they valued our experience and asked for input to improve their program as well.” --Hanson
American Fisheries Society

The Utah Student Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held their annual meeting at the Utah Valley Convention Center in Provo on March 12-14. Students from both the Fish Ecology Lab and the Lake Ecology Lab presented talks and posters. Undergraduates presenting posters included Adam Johnson, Manny May, Daison Weedop, Ryan West, and Justin Kilmer, and ranged in topics from fish ecology in the Arctic to conservation biology in Utah Lake and the San Juan River. Faculty members Jereme Gaeta, Brett Roper and Tim Walsworth presented talks on ecosystem restoration projects related to Utah Lake, watershed fire ecology, and the use of beaver as a restoration tool. Congrats to all for stellar performances by QCNR.

SOSNR

The Student Organization for Society and National Resources are planning an event filled Earth Week, culminating with a Celebration at First Dam on Earth Day 2019. On Saturday April 20, students will join the Forest Service in a tree-planting restoration project up Logan Canyon. On Monday, April 15 SOSNR students will assist with an Earth Day Art exhibit in the Caine College of the Arts. On Tuesday students will present posters during a lightning round at the TSC Auditorium from 3:30 – 5:00 pm. On Thursday QCNR student clubs will host a booth on the Quad. Saturday’s event will be the Mapping the Anthropocene Symposium from 9 - 5 in the Agricultural Sciences Auditorium. The week will bring enhanced focus on the environmental issues facing all of us. We applaud the efforts of QCNR students in providing solutions to some of the world’s most daunting problems.

The Wildlife Society

In late March, seven members of The Wildlife Society club traveled to Springdale, UT to attend the 2019 Utah Chapter of The Wildlife Society Meeting. Daniel Johnson and Daniel Kimball presented posters, while Rylee Jensen, Ethan Hammer, and Natalie D’Souza gave oral presentations about their research. Ethan even won 1st place for Best Student Paper for his research on “Remote camera surveys to inventory and monitor wildlife in Cedar Breaks National Monument”. Congrats! The conference itself consisted of fun field trips to view bighorn sheep in Zion National Park, social events to network with state biologists, and symposiums about how we are “loving our natural resources to death”. We had a very educational, insightful time down in southern Utah and we always look forward to attending the state conference each year.
Awards and Recognitions

Awards Banquet

We celebrated the accomplishments of QCNR students, faculty, and staff at our annual awards banquet on March 23. Over 200 donors and guests enjoyed dinner and celebrated the accomplishments of students, faculty, and staff.

A highlight of the evening was a special presentation provided by the USU Range Science Club to their long-time mentor, Dr. Fee Busby. Delaney Phariss and Colton Perry, range club leaders, presented Fee with the “Trail Boss for Life” award for his twenty plus years of guidance provided to students in the College. Fee was an extension faculty in Range Science from 1972 to 1979. He returned to USU in 1998 as Dean of the College of Natural Resources. Since 2006 Fee has taught over 2500 freshman in the NR Orientation classes and has coordinated the Undergraduate Range Management Exam Team. This team routinely finishes in the top three university teams in national competition and solidifies our reputation as that top Range Ecology and Management Program in the United States. We congratulate Fee on his outstanding career and wish him well as he turns the page into retirement this July.

We also recognized 60 scholarship awardees and the Outstanding Seniors named for each of the three Departments. Casey Trout was recognized as ENVS outstanding senior for her outstanding GPA and work as president of SOSNR. Audree Provard was recognized as outstanding senior of the Watershed Sciences Department for her stellar academic work and being a founding member of the student chapter of the American Water Resources Society. Delaney Phariss was named the outstanding senior of the Wildland Resources Department. Delaney will be graduating with honors, a BS degree in Range Ecology and Management, and a minor in Anthropology. Casey Trout was chosen as the recipient of the Jardine Juniper Award, given by students to one of their peers who has most influenced their lives during their time at USU. We congratulate these student leaders and all of our graduating seniors who have made QCNR a wonderful place to gain an education in natural resources.

As we acknowledged the achievements of our departing seniors, we also welcomed the new class of Quinney Scholars. Charles Livsey, board member of the S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney Foundation, presented scholarships to 8 new scholars. These new freshman join us from their homes in Utah, Wyoming, California, and Texas and begin degree programs in all three of our departments. For the first time, this freshman class also includes a legacy member; Naomi Orchard, whose parents met as Quinney Scholars in the 1980’s. We welcome their daughter back into the fold.
Faculty Awards

Faculty from QCNR were recognized nationally and at USU for their efforts in teaching, research and extension.

Edd Hammill was named QCNR Teacher of the Year. Edd teaches classes in conservation, bio-diversity, and sustainability.

Peter Howe was our Researcher of the Year. Peter’s research on the perception of climate change was highlighted this year in the NY Times. Peter also received a prestigious NSF Career award, given annually to the nation’s most promising early-career scientists. Peter Howe joins Claudia Radel, Peter Adler and Sarah Null as recipients of this award.

Department Head Mike Kuhns was the recipient of the 2019 E.G. Peterson Award, a lifetime achievement award given annually to the individual who has made the greatest contributions to extension programs at USU. Mike’s excellent work and expertise in urban and community forests as our Extension Forestry Specialist provided the foundation for this award.

A number of faculty members were named as Fellows of their scientific societies. Fellows are typically awarded to the top 1% of the membership of any society and presented for contributions to our scientific knowledge base. This past year Nancy Huntly and Peter Adler were named Fellows of the Ecological Society of America, and Charles Hawkins was named Fellow of the Society for Freshwater Science. Congratulations to all for outstanding contributions to your fields of inquiry.
April 22: Earth Day

April 26: Colorado River Seminar, Moab UT

May 2: Graduation Ceremonies:
   General Commencement - 8:30 in the Spectrum
   QCNR Commencement - Noon, Morgan Theater

May 6: Summer Classes Begin

For details on these and other upcoming events please visit:

www.qcnr.usu.edu