This Issue
NR Week - Bioneers Conference - Quinney Library
Stirring Up the Nest
NR Week: GO WILD!
Matt Howard

In addition to cool days, brilliant fall colors in the canyon, and the impending Howl debacle, October is a special month for the College of Natural Resources. Starting on Monday October 9th, Utah State University belongs to the often unshaven and unruly CNR mob as we celebrate NR Week across campus. With a variety of activities ranging across campus and exhibiting typical natural resource-style ruckus, it's a week of fun, food, music, and yes, even education. Don't miss it for anything.

NR Week kicks off with style as the Quad Goes Wild. Monday morning NR students, community groups, and various University organizations converge on the quad with booths, games, and activities. Ascend the climbing wall, est your skills with a fishing simulator, or discuss environmental issues at the Audubon Society and Clean Air booths. If all the talk gets you stoked on the outdoors, talk with the ORC representatives on hand about getting your gear on and head on up the canyon. Finish up the evening on the quad by camping out with Paul Bunyon himself.

Tuesday morning start your day with an old-fashioned logger’s breakfast. While women’s magazines tout the benefits of granola and fruit to start the day, you’ll chow down on the real stuff: pancakes and fried meat. You'll be amazed at the difference a good breakfast makes.

The activities don’t die down during the mid-week. NR week continues with several Natural Resource speakers during the day and Community Night on Wednesday. Mingle and eat at the receptions afterward. Thursday is Green Day on campus. With clean air demonstrations, representatives from Aggie Bikes, a recycle-a-thon, and a farmer’s market, Green Day gives you all the warm fuzzies typically associated with helping out ol’ Mother Earth, in contrast to the three-chord monotony and high-school anthems of its other namesake.

Bioneers Conference
Kari Signor

Are you interested in environmental sustainability, social diversity and becoming more active in your local community? If so, then check out the Third Annual Utah Bioneers Conference, October 19-21. This year, over 50 guest speakers from around Cache Valley and the state of Utah will help promote awareness of sustainable practices during this three-day event through a series of discussions and workshops on the Utah State University campus.

The Utah Bioneers Conference is a satellite event spurring from the national conference, which has been held for the past 17 years by the nonprofit organization Bioneers.

This year’s national conference will be held in San Rafael, California. Created to connect proactive environmentally-conscious citizens, Bioneers informs about global well-being and fosters innovative solutions to local and global problems ranging from resource depletion to social disparity. In addition to the Utah conference, 16 other satellite conferences will take place throughout America during the weekend of October 20th. The Utah Bioneers are excited to have Salt Lake City Mayor Ross C. Anderson and the Director of the University of Montana’s Center for the Rocky Mountain West Daniel Kemis as the featured keynote speakers this year. Mayor Anderson will demonstrate his world-renowned expertise as he speaks on climate change.

In addition to global warming, presentation topics include sustainable architecture, ‘green marketing’, microclimatology, transboundary pollution, global warming, petroleum geophysics, organic gardening and bioremediation.
NR Week - Continued

Finishing up the week, natural resource students converge on Green Canyon to give it a good scrubbing before finishing up the week with a dinner and night hike under the canyon’s spectacular canopy of stars.

There’s no better way to be a part of the College of Natural Resources this month than NR Week. Whatever brings you to the CNR, you’ll find something worth getting excited about.

Welcome to the Quinney Library
Camille Horrocks

Many students at USU are searching for that perfect study area on campus; find yours at the College of Natural Resources Quinney Library. On its three levels, the library provides a quiet niche, educational resources, and assistance in your various endeavors. College of Natural Resources students enjoy additional incentives such as free printing, but any student is welcome to come study, check out materials, and attend some of the library’s events.

Need to create maps, crunch some data, or just check your email? The Quinney boasts two computer labs with the capabilities to do everything from everyday homework to more intensive study with applications like ArcGIS and statistical programs. The labs also provide a one-stop source for color printing, copy machines, and scanners.

Whether you’re a student in the NR department or still undeclared, check out a great variety of materials. Find books, articles, dissertations, laptops, and other various items you might find to be handy or fun.

The Quinney library isn’t just for books and homework, though. Check out guidebooks of the surrounding areas, or enjoy regular travel slide shows. Periodically, professors and staff share experiences with unique and interesting places around the world. Stop in at the library and experience the next adventure!

Check out the hours and come in to set up your Quinney library Account!

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Bioneers - Continued

Hear from professionals in the fields of economics, marketing, natural resources and civil and environmental engineering, to name just a few. Those attending the conference will not only be able to learn about local issues within Cache Valley, but they can also see internationally recognized speakers in plenary sessions from the national conference in California through a live satellite feed. Professors and professionals offer over 30 interactive workshops on virtually every environmental topic imaginable.

To learn more about the Utah Bioneers Conference, visit [http://extension.usu.edu/bioneers/](http://extension.usu.edu/bioneers/). Here you’ll find information on registration, course credit opportunities, and ways to get involved with the conference. Details on all speakers, topics and workshops are also available. Full registration (by September 30, meals included) is $65 ($20 for students). Students can also receive one college credit for attending the conference. This October, become a Bioneer and explore ways to enjoy a healthier lifestyle and a healthier planet.
Some time ago, a man’s wanderings in the desert led to a change in human thought. As part of these wanderings, this man imparted knowledge, philosophies, and some advice on living a good life. Bearded and rugged, he spent his time serving a people who were, to put it mildly, unenthusiastic about his message. Eventually, he was betrayed and ridiculed by his own people. His exploits ended up in a book, since revered as a source of wisdom and teachings.

You may have guessed it, but I’m using that technique where I write about something, deliberately misleading you into thinking I’m referring to one thing, when really I’m talking about another. You thought I was talking about James and the Giant Peach, when really I’m talking about the oft-quoted, but rarely understood enigma that is Edward Abbey and his most famous book, Desert Solitaire.

I’m not calling Abbey out here. I think his books are fun reads, insightful, and full of the philosophical hot air that makes coffee shops so fun to visit. In fact, up until recently, I’ve reread Desert Solitaire every springtime as a means of getting excited for the summer’s impending activities and a way to reignite my sometimes-waning environmentalist fervor. My issue isn’t with the man himself. It’s with his crazy fans. Pick up an outdoor periodical with even the slightest of literary leanings and you’ll find Abbey’s name coming up often. He’s become a pawn in a political game of capture the flag, everybody wants his name in their camp and puppy-guarding is rampant.

Just about everyone writing an article about Abbey feels the need to bring up the time they met him. Whether it’s poker night in a bar or a speech and book-signing at a university, having shaken Ed’s hand somehow gives weight to what would be an otherwise weak argument. “While I ponder such-and-such environmental dilemma,” they say, pen or cigar in their mouth poised in a way that suggests they’re posing for a magazine cover, “I’m forced to reflect. What would Abbey think about this?” Here is the point where they fill in their personal opinion and ascribe it to a name that a lot of people associate with sound reason. They’ve got to make sure the tone of their article matches his irreverent style by saying “damn” a lot.

Problem is, Abbey’s dead. If his philosophy is right, his essence has moved on to whatever worms have eaten on him and he’s now digging through some dirt happily, thinking pretty basic thoughts. Chances are pretty good that he doesn’t give a damn about any of it. By using his name to add credence to your ideas, you’re assigning a tidy set of beliefs to a complicated and mysterious person. By picking and choosing out of a set of countless sayings, quotes, and rumors which agree with your opinion, you’re ignoring just as many that don’t.

Just like the rest of us, Edward Abbey contradicted himself depending on how he felt about a certain thing at the time. His philosophies tended to range across a whole spectrum, difficult to fit into the tidy package people tend to want. Chances are if he were still around, plenty of stuff you do would tick him off pretty good. Ever mountain bike on Slickrock? He HATED that. Don’t go walking into the Southern Utah desert with his book on you, either. That ticks off his friends. They’d rather you stay out.

When I met Abbey, he said he didn’t like you and he said to stop using his name in your articles and coffee shop discussions. In fact, if he were around today, I think he’d probably write a column making fun of you.

Want to be a part of the Almanac? We are currently accepting submissions, comics, opinions, essays, and photographs. If you’re interested in contributing, or even a position on the Almanac staff, please contact Matt Howard at mhoward@cc.usu.edu.