



# CNR NEWSLETTER

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## Message from the Dean

### Is This Your Last CNR Newsletter?



Well, it very well could be. Our College's budget is down about \$1 million due to state cuts and the impact of the economic down-turn on private funding. Rest assured that the College is still strong, and we're doing all we can to keep any cuts from affecting either our

students or our academic programs. However, it costs about \$2,000 to print and mail each issue, even at its reduced size of only four pages. (Some of you may remember when CNR's previous newsletter "Resource Lines" was 16 pages or more!)

The fact is we can't afford the \$6-8,000 each year to print and mail "hard copies" of the Newsletter. So, we're asking you to provide A valid e-mail address so we can distribute future Newsletters electronically. This will allow us to stay in touch and share important and exciting information about our students, faculty, staff, and programs.

To ensure that you continue to receive the Newsletter, please provide your current e-mail address

by sending an e-mail (with 'CNR Newsletter' in the subject line) to: [maryann.lope@usu.edu](mailto:maryann.lope@usu.edu)

We look forward to hearing from you. If you don't have an e-mail account, please write to us at the address on page 4 and let us know. We'll do whatever we can to stay in touch!

### NR Week 2009 New Events Plus Familiar Traditions

NR Week 2009 included the Logger's Breakfast, a photo contest, outdoor expo, community service project, film and music highlighting global sustainability issues, along with a special appearance by Steve Curwood, host and executive producer of the Public Radio International program, *Living on Earth*.

The theme for the week was "*Find Your Roots. Make a Difference.*" The activities provided an opportunity to learn more about the college's diversity of study and research, along with ways everyone can personally be involved in sustainability. (continued page 2)

- Nat B. Frazer  
Dean
- Mark Brunson  
Department of  
Environment and  
Society
- Chris Luecke  
Department of  
Watershed  
Sciences
- Johan du Toit  
Department of  
Wildland  
Resources

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## New Sculpture Unveiled in Natural Resources Courtyard

On September 18, a new, yet familiar presence graced the shady green ash trees and rustic lines of Utah State University's Natural Resources building. A sculpture of longtime university supporter Janet Quinney Lawson was unveiled in an ceremony on the Natural Resources building patio.

The bronze sculpture, entitled *Janet Quinney Lawson* and created by Utah artist Kraig Varner, was commissioned and donated to the university by Lawson's son, the Very Reverend Frederick Q. "Rick" Lawson.

"I was delighted that the University



chose the location outside the Natural Resources building for mother's statue," Lawson said. "Her presence will be a lasting reminder of her support and fondness for this college. I hope this location, in this lovely grove of trees, will become known as 'Janet's Glen.'"

Characterized by friends and

family as a champion of environmental education and conservation, Mrs. Lawson died December, 2008 at her home in Salt Lake City. She was 86.

"Janet was a fine individual who loved being active outdoors and who touched many lives in very positive ways," said Nat B. Frazer, dean of USU's College of Natural Resources. "Following in her parents' footsteps, she was a generous benefactor of the College of Natural Resources. I can't imagine any better place for her statue than in this beautiful grove of trees in front of CNR and the Quinney Library that bears her parents' names." (Mary-Ann Muffoletto)

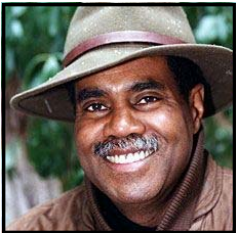
## New Department Head Environment and Society



Mark Brunson has been appointed as the Interim Department Head in the Department of Environment and Society. He is a professor in the Department of Environment and Society, where he has been on the faculty since 1992.

Mark completed his PhD in Forestry at Oregon State University in 1991. He has published numerous papers on sociological aspects of natural resources management. Mark is an active member of the Society for Range Management, and has won awards for both his teaching and research activities.

## 2009 NR Week Activities - continued



Steve Curwood, host and executive producer of the nationally syndicated public radio program *Living on Earth*

"Ecological conservation is a patriotic endeavor and is crucial to forming a closer global community," said Steve Curwood, host and executive producer of *Living on Earth*. "The last time I looked, we are part of this world, not separate from it," he told students and members of the public in a presentation for Natural Resources Week. "The fact is that we are a part of a single planet." When asked about the role students

Play, Curwood said, "The impact of technology and the pace of modern life means that students are having a strong effect whether or not they are aware. They need to get started in some fashion thinking about how this planet works, how this valley works, how we live on earth, and how we are all in it. Just take a look at some piece that touches you and somehow get engaged."

### Showing of *Wolves in Paradise*



PBS production which features the innovative efforts of CNR alumni to reduce livestock-wildlife conflicts in Montana. (see page 4)



Community Service: Planting willows on Little Bear River in Cache County

### Logger's Breakfast



NR Expo On the Quad



## Welcome Back Students

### Learn about the College



### Meet new people



### Eat great food

Students, faculty, and staff join in the CNR Opening Social. Students had the opportunity to meet the faculty, join clubs, and learn about the many programs offered by the College of Natural Resources. A great way to start the new school year.

## In the Spotlight

- USU Soils Team First Place Overall Team at the North-west Regional Soils Contest
- USU Geography Students Capture Top Awards at Regional Gathering
- Paul Rogers and Dale Bartos, Aspen Trees Die Across the West
- Phaedra Budy, Diamond in the Muck: Aggies Explore Utah's Cutler Reservoir
- Bells: Connecting Animals, People and Land

For complete stories go to: [http:// www.cnr.usu.edu](http://www.cnr.usu.edu) and USU College of Natural Resources on Facebook

## New Faculty in CNR

**Joseph Wheaton, Department of Watershed Sciences**, began his educational career studying civil engineering and land use planning and erosion control, but became interested in watershed hydrology and went on to complete his studies in hydrology and geography.

He received a BS and MS in hydrology from the University of California at Davis, and his PhD in geography from the University of Southampton School of Geography, Southampton, Hampshire, United Kingdom in 2008.

In 2006, Joe joined the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, as a lecturer in Physical Geography, and in 2008 was a visiting assistant professor, and then a research assistant professor in the Department of Geosciences at Idaho State University.

His main interests are fluvial geomorphology and ecohydraulics, with a focus on linking the two. He also has strong applied interests in the interface between environmental policy and science, and how uncertainties arising from each combine to influence the outcome of activities like river restoration. He is interested in getting a better understanding to what extent geomorphic dynamics matter to aquatic and riparian species.



His research strategy is simple: Work hard. Do good work transparently so others can repeat it. Publish what you can and make the rest available (e.g dissemination on web) for others to extend, test, explore, refute, and/or improve.

Welcome, Joe!

**Zhao Ma, Department of Environment and Society**, received a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Science and Technology in Beijing.

During her college years, she became interested in environmental issues. After working for Greenpeace as a campaign assistant for two years, she went to Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, where she received a Master of Arts in sustainable international development. In 2008, Zhao received a PhD in natural resources science and management from the University of Minnesota.



Prior to coming to USU, Zhao was a Post-doctoral Research Associate in the Family Forest Research Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her research interests lie in two distinct, but interconnected areas: 1) the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of environmental and natural resources policy; and 2) the human dimensions of environmental and natural resources management. Her recent projects include an assessment of state environmental review frameworks in the U.S., an evaluation of cumulative environmental impact assessment policies and practices in the U.S., a study of private landowners and their perceptions of various forest policies and programs in the northern U.S., and an evaluation of public recreational access on private forestland in Maine.

At USU, she will continue to develop her research and teaching programs in environmental and natural resources policy. She plans to extend her research to Utah and the Intermountain West. She is also interested in pursuing opportunities to address environmental and natural resources issues in Asia and Latin America. In her free time, Zhao enjoys traveling, cooking, and hanging out with friends.

Welcome, Zhao!

### New Aggie Makes Unique Gift to College of Natural Resources

*Iraq/Afghanistan veteran Dana King pursuing wildlife sciences degree*

Like many prospective Aggies, Dana King applied to Utah State University, corresponded by email with campus advisors, and registered for classes. What makes King's application process somewhat unique is that he accomplished all of it from Bagram Airfield in the mountains of northeastern Afghanistan.

U.S. Navy Reserve Petty Officer First Class King, who began his studies at USU this fall, was serving two back-to-back six-month tours when he decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in wildlife sciences from the College of Natural Resources. The lone sailor attached to an army special forces unit, King chose Utah State after a campus visit while on R & R last spring.

"I walked into the atrium of the Natural Resources building and saw students and professors talking and relaxing in a very comfortable setting," King recalls. "After seeing other larger campuses, I liked the personal, small college atmosphere."

As he prepared for his first semester at USU, King wanted to offer the school a token of appreciation. From Afghanistan, he brought a U.S. flag he'd flown at Bagram Airfield and presented it, with a certificate signed by his battalion commander, to Dean Frazer. The flag, in a ceremonial case, and the certificate will reside in the Natural Resources building atrium.

"Starting my studies at Utah State is a life-changing experience for me," says the Utah native. "I'm looking forward to my studies and getting involved in the college." (Mary-Ann Muffoletto)



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See the newsletter online <http://www.cnr.usu.edu/alumni>

## Ed Bangs, '74 Game Management Alumnus



Ed Bangs was President of the USU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society in 1973/74. He credits USU for giving him a strong understanding of ecological concepts, the necessity of basic field work, and the importance of community involvement in wildlife conservation. At USU he had opportunity to network with both soon-to-be and current wildlife professionals and build relationships that have lasted a lifetime.

Since graduating from USU in 1974 with a BS in game management, Ed has had an exciting career in wildlife management. As a reflection of this, in 2001 the College of Natural Resources awarded Ed with a Professional Achievement Award for his contributions to wildlife management science.

This Fall, both Montana and Idaho began issuing wolf hunting permits subsequent to the delisting of the wolf as an endangered species by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This represents the culmination of Ed's years of hard work as the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Project Leader for Wolf Recovery. It has been a rigorous, but immensely rewarding process with enormous public controversy concerning the government's efforts to restore the grey wolf to the still-suitable parts of its historic range remaining in the Rocky Mountain West.

Ed started work for the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge as a seasonal biological technician in 1975. After completing his Master's degree studying vole populations on the Refuge in 1979, he was hired as a refuge biologist. During his 13 years in Alaska he worked on a wide-variety of field studies and management programs.

In 1988 Ed went to Helena, Montana as the Service Project Leader for Wolf Recovery. There he formed and led an interagency team in northwestern Montana that monitored the wolf population, controlled wolves that attacked livestock, initiated research, and conducted an extensive public outreach program. From 1992-94, Ed led a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary effort to develop the Congressionally-mandated Environmental Impact Statement/management plan for Wolf Reintroduction to Yellowstone National Park and Central Idaho. In 1994-96, he led the interagency team that reintroduced wolves from Canada. Since 1995, Ed has led an interagency team to manage the growing wolf population. He has written several Federal Register notices to reclassify and delist wolves and assisted the Department of Justice in litigation. Ed has given numerous DC/Capital Hill briefings, hundreds of public presentations and thousands of media interviews. His recent publications can be viewed in the interagency wolf report for 2008 at <http://westerngraywolf.fws.gov/>.



## In Memory

1937 Anderson Gray, Ecology, Fisheries and Wildlife  
1939 Paul S. Shafer, Forest Range Management  
1949 Chester M. Hart, Ecology, Fisheries and Wildlife  
1950 Angus Ward, Game Management  
1961 Jesse H. Bennett, Forestry  
1986 Dale Braue, Watershed Science