Granola Gazette
Paul's Word  EARTH MUFFIN

Issue 4  Wednesday, November 10, 1999  Fall 1999

A look at the F&W Department
By Angie Burke
The Fisheries and Wildlife Department enrolls the highest number of students in the College of Natural Resources, next to Environmental Studies in the Forestry Department. In the last few years the number of students that have graduated have been approximately 30 students in each major, and the number that are graduating is rising each year.
The F&W department was started at USU in 1928 in response to local and national environmental concerns. It set out to “provide aspiring professionals with technical training, a sense of professional pride, and leadership skills” (Dept. F&W Annual Report 97-98) in the management of our fish and wildlife. For a long time, our natural resources were managed solely for harvesting and consumptive purposes.
Over the last 10 years though, attitudes toward how resources are managed, have changed. More people, including students and faculty in the College of Natural Resources have looked to shifting toward conservation through the scientific management of whole ecosystems. The F&W department has developed several educational, research, and extension programs to help meet the demands of the public. Its current mission is the “discovery, integration, communication, and application of knowledge for the management of biological resources to satisfy a diverse array of societal values and expectations” (Dept. F&W Annual Report 97-98).
Undergraduates may major in the degree of Fisheries and Wildlife with an emphasis in Fisheries, Wildlife, Conservation, or Problem Wildlife Management. The best place to go with questions about transferring credits, registering, or general questions is Maureen Wagner in the North-East office on the main floor of the NR college. Another great place to go is Suzanne Stoker on the 2nd floor in room 206. She is available to help find a good advisor, answer registering and F&W Major questions, as well as answer DEPARTMENT continued page 3

??What’s my name??
By Rachel Ware
A month ago we expressed the need for a newsletter name...and this is what we came up with (the censored results): The Earth Muffin, The Scentpost, Paul’s words, The Niche, and the Granola Gazette.
Names that didn’t get our vote but could get yours, were Flannel Fortune, Prophecies of Paul, Eat Butterflies (?), and The “Recycle This”.

Some of these could work, if we wanted them to, and some were probably written down by an engineer. But nothing is final and we’ve not given up on you guys.

If one of these is worthy of ordaining your CNR newsletter please circle one of the names below. Read page two. Then, tear this corner off and put it in the box next to the calendar, in the atrium. Very simple and we would love your ideas. Oh, and I’d hate to limit this to just the students, there is plenty of professors and administrators that could lend a hand, so please do, we would all appreciate it.
Old Traditions For A New College

By Dominic Bachman

Here I go again spouting off about the past...

What is happening to all the traditions at USU?

Over the past 70 years USU has turned from the tradition filled college of Forestry, into the college that is nationally recognized, the college of natural resources (CNR). But, somehow, a lot of long standing USU traditions got lost in the transition. I don’t see a lot of student being involved, but a lot more students rushing through their degree without actually learning. A huge part of college should be involvement. What’s happening?

A long-standing USU tradition was an award called the “Son of Paul” an award given to the top senior CNR student for achievements in academics, Leadership and Involvement. Along with this award the student’s name was engraved on a plaque that was attached to a bronzed boot. (The boot is in a glass case in the atrium.)

This boot was used for many years but then in 1996 the plaque got filled with names. In an interview with Maureen Wagner our college’s academic advisor, she stated that “The student body was given the option to add more space to the boot or get a new symbol. With the college changing so much, the students thought it more appropriate to get a new symbol that wasn’t so forestry oriented. But no new symbol was decided upon so now there is no son of Paul award.

I’m new here but I believe they still give a top CNR award. And I’m guessing they give out some cheesy brass plaque to the top boy/girl student. I’m sure this student smiles as they proudly accept a plaque that is destined to spend its life collecting dust in a cardboard box for the rest of its life.

But if your name was engraved on that traditional old boot you would be part of a legacy. That you could come

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Old Connotations: Out With the Range?

By Christy Shumway

“Home, home on the range,
Where the deer and the antelope roam...”

Say the word “range” and mental images of cowboys, livestock and a Texas twang seem to pop up immediately. Conversely, the word “environment” conjures up visions of Woodstock, tree-huggers and Tivas. While the environmentalist side of the public may view range management as a production-oriented field with little respect for the land, ranchers and farmers may view range as too environmental.

Last Monday, Jim Dobrowolski and Kathy Voth led the final discussion in a three-week series, questioning the Department of Range Management’s relevance to the students and the public. Concerns were voiced about the accessibility of research to the general public and the decline in student enrollment in the major. Some professors worried that the Range Department is quickly becoming obsolete.

The questions were raised: Will changes in departmental structure be needed to increase department/public interaction and student enrollment? Is it important to find a new name to accompany these changes?

Departmental structure changes would center around reallocation of time priorities, with less emphasis on “publish or perish” and more emphasis on teaching and extension. Most professors agreed that changes need to be made in this area.

Discussion about a new name was more controversial. Some professors shot down the idea of a name change, arguing that public views of the department as cattle ranchers or tree huggers would remain polar due to the nature of the profession. Professors supporting a name change argued that a new name would portray more holistic interests, fostering greater public trust and increased student enrollment.

A general committee evaluating these issues and continuing discussion will meet to discuss the department’s next move. The committee and professors urge that the three-week seminar was only a starting point for continued departmental dialogue and action.
Students Teach Fifth-graders about Fire

By Glen Busch

The USU Forestry Club recently became involved with the College of Natural Resources' Environmental Education program. The club led a class of 30 fifth-grade students to the site of a recent forest fire to teach them about fire and forest ecology. CNR professor Barbra Middleton organized the event with Ellis Elementary School fifth grade teacher Eric Newill and presented it to the club. Involved with the project were USU students Sandra, Marni, Eston, Ted, Tennile, Leslie, and Glen.

In the classroom, the class of 30 fifth-graders was divided into groups of five with one USU student per group. The student was in charge of teaching the kids about many different topics of natural resources. Among the topics were species recognition, fire behavior, and wildlife, surveying. The burn would then be visited twice, once in the fall and once in the spring.

At the site of the fire, each student leader with his or her group laid out a 100' transect running from outside the burn to inside the burn. At four foot intervals the kids surveyed for vegetation and animals signs. They discussed what kinds of changes they predicted to see at the site over the course of a year.

A great learning experience for both groups involved. The elementary school students received a great introduction to the study of natural resources. The university students received a brief, yet intense introduction to the wonderful area of environmental education.

Environmental Education Conference Hosted on Campus

By Barbara Middleton

Utah State University is hosting the annual Utah Society for Environmental Education (USEE) Conference December 7-8, 1999. This year’s conference, “Tools for Non-Formal Educators,” has direct connections for both university students and local EE providers interested in environmental education development opportunities. Through the Tools project we hope to provide resources, problem-solving sessions and learning opportunities to EE program providers and leaders, as well as to build a stronger network throughout the EE community. By exchanging ideas, sharing new information and a broadening the EE community, we hope to enhance the development and delivery of environmental education throughout Utah and the Rocky Mountain west. Student registration fees are $25 is enrolled before Nov. 12 or $40 after that date. Please contact Barbara Middleton (x0151) if you are interested in attending.

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other general questions. Suzanne and Maureen are both very friendly and helpful!

Due to the fact that few Bachelor graduates find full time jobs, obtaining a Master’s Degree is a growing priority among F&W students, about 20% go on to graduate school. Master’s Graduate students find more jobs out-of-state, on the Internet, and through government agencies like the BLM and the Forest Service.

Being a F&W major has taught me a lot of things about fish and wildlife, what they do, and ways they could be managed. But one of the goals of the faculty is for us to learn that even though we need to conserve our resources, it’s OK to use them too. Chris Luecke, the Department Head of Fisheries and Wildlife, hopes that the students will come to learn a “sense of trade-offs” between managing for consumptive use and for conservation.

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back 50 years later and still see your name on that old boot.

Or even a new symbol might be better? The CNR has changed a lot and is not just a forestry school anymore, as those Foresters boot would symbolize. The face of the college has changed a lot over the years but I feel we should stay traditional on this one. What would be a better symbol? I will give ten dollars to the first person who e-mails me a decent response. dom@cc.usu.edu (I’m just checking to see if any body reads this thing!)

Newsletter Committee

Chair: Esther Yardley
Dominic Bachman
Angie Burke
Megan Curtis
Andrew Kelher
Christy Shumway
Rachel Ware
The Two Sides of Hunting

By Adam Switalski

Predators are an essential part of any healthy ecosystem. The main reason for this is that they actually increase the health of their prey population. This is accomplished through the predator preying upon the diseased and the old of the population. A heard of elk is only as strong as the weakest animal. When, for instance, a wolf pack takes down a diseased elk, the herd as a whole can run faster and be more efficient. Also, If not kept in check, the diseased animal may spread the disease on to other animals thus reducing the health of the herd or population.

Human sport hunting does not, however, mimic this natural predator - prey system. Humans typically have such an advantage over game animals through gun technology that all prey is susceptible to predation. The human sport hunter preferably chooses the best-fit and strongest animals. Mean while, a starving poor fit animal may survive and pass their genes on creating weaker animals. This problem is exacerbated through humans killing natural predators such as wolves, coyotes, cougars, etc. So Basically human hunting may ultimately be creating a weaker population of game animals.

Adam is a grad student studying wolves and coyotes in Yellowstone.

Tricia Ashby

For those that went, the 1999 deer and elk season was a good one. Of course, that all depends on how you define “good.” That definition is as broad as the area in which the hunt takes place. There are some hunters who are pleased with the opportunity to just be involved in the hunt, while others are still searching for that twenty point buck to display on their wall.

So why do people go hunting? Personally, I think it’s a barbaric instinct that must come out at some point (especially in men). The majority of those who hunt seem to do it because it gives them an excuse to be in the outdoors. There is something about the smell of gunpowder on the fall breeze that is just irresistible.

Of course, the hunt would never be the same if those crazy, die-hard, red-neck hunters weren’t running all over the mountains. With the whole family in the back seat, they’re a bouncin’ down the road. Oops! Is that little Bobby that came out of the window? Better stop and pick him up.

Some of the best driving skills on the face of this planet are demonstrated during the hunting season. As dusk quickly approaches, a deer is spotted along the roadside ahead. The gas pedal is found and the family suburban goes flying down the dirt road. For awhile, the deer gives them a good chase but then decides to take a detour. Saddened by their failure, the hunters head for home. What did they think they were going to do? A drive by shooting? That only happens in Salt Lake City and if it’s spreading, then we have got some serious problems.

Most people seem to watch trophy hunters as though they were a plague. When regarding this type of hunter, try to keep a positive attitude. Remember, they don’t kill Bambi, but they are after his father. Some of the best money that supports game preserves comes from out-of-state trophy hunters. Without that support, farmers and ranchers may be tempted to sell their land for development.

It’s important to remember that safety comes first when people have guns and a hunter should always know what his target is before squeezing the trigger. Shooting the farmer’s favorite riding horse is not going to go over well. Have fun but be safe!!!

CNR Student Poll

By Megan Curtis
Twenty CNR Students surveyed at different times in the Atrium.

Do you support legal hunting?
83% Yes
17% No
Those who said yes.
Have you been hunting this year?
30% Yes
70% No
Of those that went hunting, 100% got something. This was either big game or birds.
CNR COUNCIL

Today in the atrium there is going to be a donation box. The donation are going to the students of Eastern Carolina University. ECU was hit by a flood during one of the hurricanes that just went through there. Please donate your change. Also, there might be some materials to make cards to send to them. So put a encouraging word.

Thanksgiving social is going to be the week before break so please stay posted. It is going to be a pot luck soup meal. So all come with your spoons and have fun, bring something new.

Forestry Club

Went to Camp Williams this past weekend to build a 1.5 mile electric fence as a fundraiser. They have also been busy teaching a fifth grade class about fire ecology please see the article on page 3. They are planning a Christmas tree cut. Please look around for the details of when. A good opportunity to get some sawing experience.

The Wildlife Society

November 5th through 7th, Wildlife Society Members and a few more adventurers visited Yellowstone National Park and Teton National Park. Students enjoyed discussions with park wof biologists and naturalists. We traveled to Lamar valley and witnessed a pack of coyotes feeding on a kill. The pack’s of wolves were elsewhere, but one die hard member of the group went out Sunday morning before everyone else was awake and watched a pack of wolves food on an elk.

Other member say bighorn sheep, trumpeter swans, bald eagles and (of course) elk and bison. The trip was a great success and if you missed it, make sure you sign up early next year.

The next event will be reseeding the burned area up Logan canyon with wildlife biologist Dennis Austin.

For more information on activities or membership, contact Kim Klien at s18x8@mcc.usu.edu or sign up on The Wildlife Society information sheet on the club office (NR 215) window.

Range Club

Also went to Camp Williams this past weekend to build a 1.5 mile electric fence as a fundraiser. Tuesday and Wednesday members went down to Provo for a State SRM meeting.

The Monday before Thanksgiving the Range club is going to make Christmas Tree ornaments to sell with the Forestry’s Christmas trees.

Sorry everyone this page is so bad, but I’m going to Provo and so you can have this newsletter for coffee hour o Wednesday. I just through something together so you could have the information. The person who was doing this got sick and well this is what we got. Sorry. Esther
# NOVEMBER

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For more information about club activities check Club Update, page 5.