The Past and Present of Logger’s Balls

By Dominic Bachman

Logger’s Ball, what is that? The Logger’s Ball is a dinner and dance hosted by CNR. This dance is part of a long-standing tradition dating back to the 1920’s when it was put on by the College of Forestry in the USU school gym.

In modern times the College of Natural Resources still holds this event every winter. For the past few years it has been a joint venture with the Forestry Club and the Wildlife Society.

This year the Loggers Ball and Game Dinner will be held next Friday (Feb. 18th) at the Bullen Center (53 Main in Logan,) it will start at 6:00. Because of its huge success this year the blues band BADLY BENT will be playing.

This band has CNR staff in it and is always a great performance.

This activity is a great way for students and faculty to interact, many people commented on how much fun it was last year to dance with “FEE” or just watching him bust a move. If this sounds cool to you come buy a ticket from Maureen’s office (NR112) $4 dance only, $8 dinner and dance or if your a cheap wad like me cook a meal that serves 10 people and get in free! Vegetarian and wild game are always good ideas.

So how did this whole loggers ball get started? In 1927 the forestry club boys thought it would be fun to have a dance and called it the Foresters Ball, and for the Continued to page 3

Participate in Logging Sports with Forestry Conclave

By Christy Shumway

SAF is going to Humboldt in Arcata California this year for their forestry conclave, April first through ninth. Forestry Conclave is a week of loggers sports, tours and bonfires on the beach.

Before writing this I didn’t know what most of the loggers sports were. So I asked Matt McRae, the loggers sports chair, to explain a few of the sports so I could have a better idea of what Conclave involves.

Beginning with the tree climb, he asked me if I’d seen the poles between the Military Science building and the parking garage. The wooden poles tower 60 to 100 ft, and the loggers wrap ropes around their waist and a pole. Competitors throw the rope up, use it to pull themselves up the pole, then dig in their heels, stabilize and throw the rope again. This year at Humboldt the logger teams will climb the redwoods. The four-inch bark on the redwoods will be much different from the stripped wooden poles our team practices on in Utah.

In the single and double buck one or two people are timed as they slice through a log with a huge crosscut saw. In birling, two competitors balance on floating logs, each trying to be the last to fall off. All of the loggers sports, including the axe throw, log throw, double buck and single buck, standing chop, underhand chop, and speed climb require the ultimate versatility and strength to finish with competitive times.

The USU loggers team currently meets at Jensen historical farm every Monday, but is open to suggestions for other meeting dates. The team will bring the eight most qualified members to Humboldt in April. If you’re interested in joining the team and going to Humboldt you can contact Matt at slidww@cc.usu.edu.

Last year at Cal Poly the team took a tour of a sawmill, visited the aquarium, went sea kayaking, and had a bonfire beach party. This year the team plans to either camp out in the woods nearby Humboldt, or stay in one of the cabins close by. This is a great chance to meet other forestry and natural resources majors from all over the US.

Out the new CNR Website
http://cnr.usu.edu
Geography and Earth Resource Department

By: Andrew Kelher

The geographic relationship between humans and their biophysical environment is the main emphases of the Geography and Earth Resources Department here in the College of Natural Resources. The GER department has many area of interest including: climatology, environmental and geographic education, GIS and remote sensing, river processes, and land use planning and analysis.

The department of GER works closely with many of the other departments in the College of Natural Resources and has a direct association with GIS/RS research laboratory which aids in the departments research and teaching. The department has excellent reputation for their research in many areas of the world.

The Geography and Earth Resources Department office is located on the second floor of the NR building. The bulletin board that is outside of the office has many interesting facts that show a geographic relationship between humans and their biophysical environment in the surrounding areas of Cache Valley. To understand the GER department stop by and take a look at the information on this board.

Any Questions?

Cartoon By Tricia Ashby

Graduation Application
Due March 1, for Fall 2000.
Start early it takes a while.

Outdoor Recreation Center sponsors
Banff film festival
February 16th and 17th starting at 7pm in the Kent Concert Hall $5 Admission
For anyone interested in
Extreme MOUNTAIN sports
Council
Reminder that Engineering week is February 21-25 so make sure you show your college spirit.

Forestry Club
is busy with the Logger’s Ball and Game Dinner that will be held on February 18th dinner is at 6:00 and the dance and door prizes. Badly Bent will provide the music for the evening. Tickets can be picked up in NR 112 for $4.00 for the dance and $8.00 for the dinner and dance or provide a dish for 10 people and get in to it all for free. Check article on page 1 for more details.
Conclave/Logging sports practices on Mondays at the Hansen Historical Farm. They will be competing at Humboldt State in Arcata, California on April 2-8th. Check the article on page 1
Week of February 21 and 28 the forestry club will be continuing the general Environmental Education program with the 5th graders. The week of the 21 they will be going into the classroom and teaching and then the week of the 28th they will go on a field trip to the burn site.
Any question e-mail Sandra at sjel_9@hotmail.com

Wildlife Society
is busy with the Logger’s Ball and Game Dinner as well as the Forestry Club. Check Forestry Club for more details.
March 14-18 Wildlife Conclave is going to be held here at USU. Conclave sponsors activities like quizbowl, art, and presentation contest between western universities. Organization meetings are held at 7 p.m. in NR 106. This is a good opportunity to get involved.

Range Club
is preparing to go to Boise next Sunday through Wednesday for the national Society for Range Management meeting. Students will be participating in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) Team where members take a test on range management practices, the plant ID contest where they will be tested on 200 range plants, a student display contest that they hope will follow in last years footprints of 1st place, and public speaking on range topics.
Once they come back they will be having a fundraiser of making feed boxes so stay posted.

Continued from page 1
next 20 years it was called that. They had some fun stuff in that time including a beer chugging contest, and some guy brought his pet porcupine to a dance. Every year they gave out corsages made of spruce bows and pinecones. In 1944 they didn’t have a dance because so many of the boys where serving in the war.
In the late 1940’s they changed the dance’s name to Paul’s Ball in honor of the Mythical Paul Bunyon and Paul Dunn (A beloved CNR Dean) A few years later they changed it to Paul’s Party. Some of the events that went on included a Beauty pageant where the Queen would be crowned “Daughter of Paul” at the dance. They also used to bring in Paul’s axe a mere 27 feet long as a decoration. One year they gave out little wooden Paul statues as a party favor.
Then sometime at the end of the century they changed the name again this time to the present day Logger’s Ball and Game Dinner, to incorporate the wildlife club into the activity.
Over the events vast history there has been a lot of different music styles starting from jazz and swing to trumpet trio’s and hard rock with some blue’s, currently a few odd styles I noted were Yodeling and even a symphony!
Now for some Trivia; If the first loggers ball was in 1927 and this year (2000) is only the 58th annual loggers ball what happened to the other 15 loggers balls?
## February and March

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For more information about club activities check Club Update, page 3.