Here at the Aldo Leopold Learning Community, things couldn't be better! Not only are classes going well for all of us, but we’re enjoying this semester as a whole.

Wes Jolley recently returned from a difficult, yet thrilling competition with the Wildlife Conclave at Colorado State University. From the sound of it, he had a load of fun and did very well in the competition. Speaking of competition, Wes walked away from a recent biology exam with a stellar score!

Jake Bonham also has been traveling abroad; to be specific, he went to the wild and exciting city of Reno, Nevada to attend a vertebrate pest conference hosted by multiple state and federal agencies. Word has it that he enjoyed himself, gained a lot of experience and received several job offers. While we’re talking about enjoying
tings, Jake is reveling with joy from his recent biology exam score which to say the least, was excellent!

Kara Jorgensen recently signed up for NR 4350, a wildlife damage management course that the College of Natural Resources recently decided to offer. The latest great event in this course was an excursion to the shooting range. Where the class experimented with bird dispersal methods, which included the legal use of M-80’s! And in conclusion, Kara also is ecstatic with her biology exam score!

Rory Johnson made a near clean sweep at the recent Logger's Ball sponsored by the College of Natural Resources and local businesses. He was excited to attend the ball before it happened, but when he ended up walking away with a brand new handheld GPS (among other prizes,) he was most pleased. Rory lucked out this semester, because his major does not require him to take a second semester of biology, but he feels confident chance to take the exam. Adam Brewerton was most pleased with himself, because he managed to find time in between studying for a recent biology test (he passed too) and time with his girlfriend to go “hawking” with fisheries wildlife undergraduate Luke Smith. Their adventures took them to Bear Lake to exercise, fly and feed their birds.

That's the what the individuals of the Aldo Leopold Learning Community "Animal House" have been up to. As many of you may know, one of the purposes of the Learning Community "Animal House" was to promote social interactions with other members of the natural resources community. So what have we been up to as a "whole?"

The most recent endeavor of "us" was dumpster diving! A man with an eye for the fantastic, Wes Jolley, noticed a recliner in a dumpster. What was the most obvious thing for us to do? Well, several of us dived in after it, cleaned it up and named it the “Diamond In The Rough.” In conclusion it provides all of us a great, relaxing sensation after a long, hard day of diligent school work.

Thanks for reading the updates of the Animal House... Errr... Rather the Aldo Leopold Learning Community.
If you’ve taken a look at the fall 2002 class schedule, you may have noticed that the old FW, RLR, WS and other natural resource classes are not there. As the student representative on the College Curriculum Committee I feel it is my duty to notify you that your classes have not disappeared, they just have new names.

By now, most CNR students probably know that the college is currently going through some changes. Along with the reorganization of the departments, all of the current CNR majors are being re-evaluated. Don’t worry, the college will still offer all of the same majors. However, some of the requirements for those majors will change. These changes should eliminate classes that are out-of-date, and should include new classes that will make CNR graduates more competitive in the job market.

The new requirements will not affect students who are already registered under a particular major. However, some new classes will be offered before some of us graduate. This means that we will have the chance to learn important new skills from some great professors.

The reorganization has been a long and tedious process. Members of the CNR staff have had to work together through countless meetings to create the new departments. Throughout the process, they have been willing to listen to student input when we step up and voice our opinions.

On March 6, several Environmental Studies students met with Mark Brunson to discuss the new requirements for this major, which will be in the Environment and Society department. On March 27, several students met with Dave Roberts, who will be the new department head of the FRWS department. Many of these students will graduate before the changes go into effect, but they care about the future of the college and the natural resource field.

You can make a difference in this college too. Because we are a small college, we have many opportunities for student leadership and personal contact with faculty and staff. If you have any concerns about classes that are being offered in the CNR or other issues associated with the college or university, tell someone.

You can talk to your student senator, student council members, club officers, or other student leaders. Better yet, why not become one of these student leaders yourself?! That way when you’re trying to register for fall semester, you’ll know what in the world AWER3100 means!

If you have comments or suggestions concerning curriculum issues, send them to me at summ@cc.usu.edu.

Upcoming Events
- April 5 CNR Awards Banquet  6:30 in the TSC Ballroom
- April 25 Closing Social
Wildlife Conclave Comes Home

By Wes Jolley

Every spring, a group of Utah State University students attend the Annual Western Student Wildlife Conclave. This year’s host was Colorado State University, in Ft. Collins. Students from nine western universities gathered together for fun, learning, and competition.

Eight students, Dr. Will Pitt, and his son Charlie piled into a van on Tuesday afternoon. We all knew we had a long road ahead of us, but we were prepared. With Tanya playing the role of DJ, and plethora of CDs, everyone had an opportunity to choose songs they wanted to hear. We couldn’t relax the whole drive however, because we had work to do. We had to think of our skit for Thursday night’s animal behavior competition. We came up with only a few ideas before we slipped into other conversation. It was after midnight by the time we finally arrived at our hotel. After we got our daily dose of the Animal Channel, it was time for bed.

The next morning we were up early and ready for a field trip. Our destination was the National Wildlife Research Center where we were given a tour and taught about various ongoing research projects. The NWRS is involved in everything from the development of new traps to methods of reducing crop damage by birds. Later that night there was an opening social, but we didn’t feel much like sitting around and talking. However, we stuck around for a while, but then it was back to the hotel for a few hours of playing in the pool.

Thursday was a stressful day for three of our team members. Matt Baker, Kyle Petersen, and Trevor Fox were up way too early practicing their presentations. The crowd gathered in the CSU natural resource building, they were ready to see some great presentations. Matt was the first USU student to present. His presentation was about teaching 3rd graders about wildlife management. Kyle was next up from USU, her topic was implementing the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP) within youth. After lunch, Trevor gave his insight into how ethics affect our jobs. I may be biased, but I think the Utah State team gave three cream-of-the-crop presentations.

Thursday night was time to party. After having dinner at a fantastic Thai restaurant, team USU made a fashionably late entrance to the dance. Thanks to a shopping spree at the Salvation Army, we came complete with costumes for our animal behavior skit. Every team presented it’s behavior, and the crowd cheered loudest for the skit they liked most. I may once again be biased, but I think our game show style ski (complete with prizes) deserved to win the trophy. Needless to say, the judge thought the crowd cheered louder for another team. Our prides were a little injured by the loss, but once the music started up we danced our sorrows away.

With Friday came the much awaited quiz bowl. Teams of four square off in a competition questioning everything from basic biology to bird song identification. Our first match was close, luckly the opposing team was short a person and still drunk from the night before. We came out on top however, and prepared to face Humboldt State. Humboldt wins every year, so we really wanted to beat them. We had an amazing start, our team was relaxed and ready for action. Sadly, it didn’t last, the competition came down to the very end before Humboldt managed to finish with a slight lead. I think this was definitely the most exciting match of the tournament. Humboldt went on to win the entire tournament, but no other team came close to beating them.

The closing banquet was held on Friday night. After dinner we had the privilege of hearing a short presentation by L. David Mech. Mech is a world renowned wolf biologist. The presentation was about the methods wolves use to bring down large animals such as moose and elk. David Mech also discussed how different actions by the prey effect hunting success rates. I found it interesting that animals that stop running and attempt to face the wolves have a higher chance of survival than if they kept running.

After the speaker, the winners of the competitions were announced. Our very own Kyle Peterson was awarded second place for her presentation, as a prize she received a book of Aldo Leopold quotes.

I think I speak for everyone on the team when I say that the Wildlife Conclave was an excellent experience. It was an awesome chance to meet and interact with some of our future coworkers from other universities. Plus, during all the fun I think we managed to learn quite a lot. I look forward to competing at the conclave next year in Laramie, Wyoming. Anyone who is interested in competing next year would be a welcome addition to our team. If you are interested talk to Trevor Fox, or any of your Wildlife Society club officers.
What Is Your Tree?

APPLE TREE (Love) - Jun 25 to Jul 04 & Dec 23 to Dec 31 - of slight build, lots of charm, appeal, and attraction, pleasant aura, flirtatious, adventurous, sensitive, always in love and be loved, faithful and tender partner, very generous, scientific talents, lives for today, carefree, philosopher with imagination.

ASH TREE (Ambition) - May 25 to Jun 03 & Nov 22 to Dec 01 - uncommonly attractive, vivacious, impulsive, demanding, does not care for criticism, ambitious, intelligent, talented, likes to play with fate, can be egotistic, very reliable and trustworthy, faithful and prudent lover, sometimes brains rule over the heart, but takes partnership very seriously.

BEECH TREE (Creativity) - Dec 22 - has good taste, concerned about its looks, materialistic, good organization of life and career, economical, good leader, takes no unnecessary risks, reasonable, splendid lifetime companion, keen on keeping fit (diets, sports, etc.)

BIRCH TREE (Inspiration) - Jun 24 - vivacious, attractive, elegant, friendly, pretentious, modest, does not like anything in excess, abhors the vulgar, loves life in nature and in calm, not very passionate, full of imagination, little ambition, creates a calm and content atmosphere.

CEDAR TREE (Confidence) - Feb 09 to Feb 18 & Aug 14 to Aug 23 - of rare beauty, knows how to adapt, likes luxury, of good health, not in the least shy, tends to look down on others, self-confident, determined, impatient, likes to impress others, many talents, industrious, healthy optimism, waiting for the one true love, able to make quick decisions.

CHESTNUT TREE (Honesty) - May 15 to May 24 & Nov 12 to Nov 21 - of unusual beauty, does not want to impress, well-developed sense of justice, vivacious, interested, a born diplomat, irritatingly easy and sensitive in company, often due to a lack of self-confidence, acts sometimes superior, feels not understood, loves only once, has difficulties in finding a partner.

CYPRESS TREE (Faithfulness) - Jan 25 to Feb 03 & Jul 26 to Aug 04 - strong, muscular, adaptable, takes what life has to give, content, optimistic, craves money and acknowledgment, loneliness, passionate lover which cannot be satisfied, faithful, quick-tempered, unruly, pedantic, and careless.

ELM TREE (Noble-Minded) - Jan 01 to Jan 11 & Jul 15 to Jul 25 - pleasant shape, tasteful clothes, loudest demands, tends not to forgive mistakes, cheerful, likes to lead but not to obece onest and faithful partner, likes making decisions for others, noble-minded, generous, good sense of humor, practical.

FIR TREE (Sensibility) - Jun 14 to Jun 23 & Dec 12 to Dec 21 - very strong, a bit self-willed, independent, does not allow contradiction or arguments, loves life, its family, children and animals, a bit of a social butterfly, good sense of humor, likes idleness and laziness, of practical talent and intelligence.

Grapevine TREE (Mysterious) - Jul 05 to Jul 14 - extraordinary taste, dignity, sophisticated, loves anything beautiful, moody, stubborn, tends to egotism but cares for those close to them, rather modest, very ambitious, talented, industrious, unscrupulous lover, many friends, many foes, very reliable.

IAZELNUT TREE (Extraordinary) - Mar 22 to Mar 31 & Sep 24 to Oct 03 - charming, undemanding, very understanding, knows how to make an impression, active fighter for success, popular, moody, and capricious lover, honest, and tolerant partner, precise sense of judgment.

ORNAMENT TREE (Good Taste) - Jun 04 to Jun 13 & Dec 02 to Dec 11 - of cool beauty, cares for its looks and condition, good taste, is not egotistic, makes life as comfortable as possible and a reasonable and disciplined life, looks for kindness and acknowledgment in an emotional partner, dreams of unusual lovers, is seldom happy with its feelings, mistrusts most people, is never sure of its decisions, very conscientious.

JASPER TREE (Doubt) - Mar 11 to Mar 20 & Sep 13 to Sep 22 - accepts what life dishes out in a composed way, hates fighting, stress, and labor, dislikes laziness and idleness, soft and patient, makes sacrifices for friends, many talents but not tenacious enough to make them blossom, often waiting and complaining, very jealous but loyal.

MAPLE TREE (Independent) - Apr 11 to Apr 20 & Oct 14 to Oct 23 - no ordinary person, full of imagination and originality, shy and reserved, ambitious, proud, self-confident, hungry for new experiences, sometimes nervous, has many complexities, good memory, learns easily, complicated love life, wants to impress.

OAK TREE (Brave) - Mar 21 - robust nature, courageous, strong, unrelenting, independent, sensible, does not like change, keeps its feet on the ground, person of action.

OLIVE TREE (Wisdom) - Sep 23 - loves sun, warmth and kind feelings, reasonable, balanced, avoids aggression and violence, tolerant, cheerful, calm, well-developed sense of justice, sensitive, empathetic, free of jealousy, loves to read and the company of sophisticated people.

PINE TREE (Particular) - Feb 19 to Feb 28 & Aug 24 to Sep 02 - loves agreeable company, very robust, knows how to make life comfortable, very active, natural, good companion, but seldom friendly, falls easily in love but its passion burns out quickly, gives up easily, everything disappointments until it finds its ideal, trustworthy, practical.

ORCHID TREE (Uncertainty) - Feb 04 to Feb 08 & May 01 to May 14 & Aug 05 to Aug 13 - looks very decorative, not very self-confident, only courageous if necessary, needs goodwill and pleasant surroundings, very choosy, often lonely, great animosity, artistic nature, good organizer, and to lean toward philosophy, reliable in any situation, takes partnership seriously.

OWAN TREE (Sensitivity) - Apr 01 to Apr 10 & Oct 04 to Oct 13 - full of charm, cheerful, gifted without egotism, likes to draw attention, loves life, motion, unrest, and even complications, is both sensitive and independent, good taste, artistic, passionate, emotional, good company, does not forgive.

PINE TREE (Passion) - Apr 21 to Apr 30 & Oct 24 to Nov 11 - unrelenting, strange and full of contrasts, often egotistic, aggressive, noble, broad horizon, unexpected reactions, spon sohnless, unlimited ambition, no flexibility, difficult and uncommon partner, not always liked but often admired, ingenious strategist, very jealous and passionate, no commitment.

PEARY TREE (Melancholy) - Mar 01 to Mar 10 & Sep 03 to Sep 12 - beautiful but full of melancholy, attractive, very empathetic, loves anything beautiful and tasteful, loves toovel, dreamer, restless, capricious, honest, can be influenced but is not easy to live with, demanding, good intuition, suffers in love but finds sometimes an anchoring partner.