Did any of you see Paul outside of the Quinney Library during NR week? Did you notice the TWS painted on his nice new Camo pants? Well, TWS means The Wildlife Society. It is an organization for wildlife majors and people interested in wildlife. Our student chapter is based on the National Wildlife Society, which is one of the largest wildlife management organizations in the world. The student chapter allows students who are going to be employed in the wildlife field to meet professional biologists and get some real world experience. Another important benefit of the wildlife society is the chance to meet and work with other students who share similar interests.

Over the last while, our members have traveled to national and state wildlife conferences. In September, we went with the USU Berryman Institute to Bismarck, ND, and met some of the best biologists in the country. At business meetings earlier this year, we convinced the state wildlife board to have the State Wildlife Society Meetings here at USU this spring.

In addition to having meetings and conferences, The Wildlife Society does many activities throughout the semester. We have done small mammal and bird surveys, released black-footed ferrets, and participated in sage grouse and mule deer check stations. We have worked with habitat improvement projects in different areas of the state. We also adopted a Nature Park close to campus where we have permission to do wildlife surveys and habitat improvements so our students can learn some basic wildlife skills. This year, we have to talked to thousands of students about our display of taxidermy and live birds of prey. We also have some fun barbeques, hikes, and wildlife viewing trips. Over forty of us just got back from our annual wildlife viewing trip to Yellowstone.

Currently, we are working on a website with the Computer Science department and are creating a new membership directory. If you would like more information about the club or have any other wildlife questions, please contact Luke Smith by email: LJS@cc.usu.edu — or in person: NR 219 Mon, Wed, Fri 10:30-12:30.

You can also check out the bulletin posted on the TWS board in the atrium of the CNR.
The One, The Only, Wildlife Conclave!

By Trevor

Can everyone feel the excitement of conclave in the air, or is it just me? Okay, maybe it is just me, but this is something I enjoy doing and hope others will join and enjoy it as well. "So, what exactly is Wildlife Conclave?" This is something I have heard from many a folk since becoming Conclave Chair last year. Well, I'm writing this to try and straighten things out.

Wildlife Conclave is a competition that happens every year in the spring. There are a few meetings in different regions of the nation. Our conclave is against other student chapters of The Wildlife Society from other universities across the west, even California; just in case you don't count them as true-Westerners. The actual event incorporates several competitive events, including the most well known event, the quiz bowl. This is what our team practices for on a weekly basis.

The other events include the student presentations, student posters, art contest, and the animal behavior skit that every team has to compete in. We are usually the team to beat with the skit, even though we lost the coveted "carp" trophy last year, but we know who really won. Who can compete with us doing sexual selection by plumage, coprophage, deer-vehicle interactions, and Matt and me butting heads over Kyle (by the way, I totally whooped on Matt)?

This year, practice will start on November 14 followed by one more near the end of November and a more regular schedule in the Spring. Practices will take place in the Quinney Conference room on the second floor. You can register for it as a class under FRWS 4950 Special Topics. I am making some changes to the requirements this year. Everyone will have to either do a presentation or create a poster. It may sound difficult, but is well worth it. This is a great opportunity to practice presenting to a group because the audience will be your peers.

Practice is also a great opportunity to study since the questions we may face could come from any of your natural resources classes. Questions are made up of wildlife, range, fish, forestry, policy and law, etc. so this is not just for wildlife students. Everyone is invited to join us and have a good time.

I hope that this straightens up some of the questions about conclave. If you are interested, you can email me at tfox@cc.usu.edu, or simply show up to practice.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving...
Destination: Bismarck, North Dakota

By Trevor Fox

First off I'll answer the question all of you are probably asking yourselves, "Why would anyone in his or her right mind want to go on a trip to Bismarck, North Dakota?" Well, I'll tell you. This was the chosen location for the National Conference of The Wildlife Society. This annual trip was amazing the year before in Reno, so we decided to give it another go.

This year started off very interesting when six of us climbed into the extra-cab pickup truck to start off what was to become a sixteen-hour road trip. If you have not yet experienced a CNR road trip, pay close attention. I have yet to go on one of these road trips and not have a great time. This is one great thing about the CNR community; we always make it a good time no matter what happens.

Those of us that chose to undergo the drive were Luke Smith, Matt Baker, Lee Rindlisbacher, Garret "Jebus," myself, and the poor lone girl, Tonya Stephenson. We survived the journey with the help of Johnny Cash's "The Ring of Fire" and lots of other music and personal stories. Finally arriving in Bismarck was a great feeling, especially for those of us who lacked sleep. (Not everyone can sleep as soundly as Luke and Matt in such close quarters.)

The meeting was a great experience. This is one of the larger meetings we go to with 2000 other students and professionals (don't hold me to the number, but it is a good guess). We attended some very interesting presentations from Ferruginous Pygmy Owls to wolves and everything in between. Conferences like this are remarkable in that you can just go up to someone who gave an interesting presentation and chat with them. A number of these presentations came from our professors and graduate students. It always amazes me to see how much our little college contributes to the profession.

One of the events that gets me going is the Student Conclave. This is where the student chapters get together and form teams to compete against each other in a quiz bowl. We did pretty well this year by winning the first round and nearly winning the second. This is also a chance to interact with our peers from other universities across the nation. It's always fun to meet these people and it is usually where the best stories originate. These students will continue to be a part of your lives, whether at work or simply at future meetings, so why not have some dirt on them for the future? Since we are talking about students from other universities, possibly in California, here's a little inside joke -- "Hey guys! Who am I?"

No road trip is complete without the ride home and this one was just that: a ride home and a long one at that. We took the scenic way home through Yellowstone National Park, which meant we went over Beartooth Pass. This is a marvelous drive that everyone should take, and what better way to enjoy freezing temperatures at about 11,000 feet in elevation than to take your shirts off (sorry though, it was just a couple of the guys). We had some good talks about the previous days as the ride continued until we finally made it home and got some SWEET, SWEET SLEEP.

To sum up this article, I would like to suggest that everyone get involved with the college and its clubs and organizations. As you can see, these trips are a lot of fun, but they are also excellent opportunities to make very important contacts with professionals. Contacts can make a difference in this profession, so start early. We would like to thank the Jack H. Berryman Institute, especially Dr. Mike Conover, for the funding, vehicle, and lodging for those of us who are members (Luke, Lee, Matt, and myself). Without their support, it would not have been possible to have this marvelous and unforgettable opportunity. ***Any questions or comments about this or future trips, contact Trevor Fox at tfox@cc.usu.edu or any student organization.

...and a Merry Christmas!!
Yellowstone

By Marie Chastion

What can I say, but freezing! I guess that is what happens when you go to Yellowstone in November. More than forty people, mostly from The Wildlife Society, went to Yellowstone this month. We saw bison (also known as American Buffalo or Burger), coyote, elk, bald eagles, mink, ravens, and wolves. We enjoyed going to Mammoth Springs, which is located near the 45th parallel. Despite the cold, we got into our swimming suits and sat in the river. Fortunately for us, there are hotspots in the river. It was a unique experience, not likely to be forgot, especially the ten minute walk back to the car. Wolf watching in LaMarre Valley was another highlight of the trip, but for those who have never been, a word of advice: it requires patience, and the most you may see of this mysterious animal is a moving dot, which makes for interesting pictures. Don’t let this discourage you, for one group saw a wolf up close when they were driving from LaMarre Valley. The wolf, of course, wanted nothing to do with them, so it quickly disappeared. The only animals that seemed to not mind the human attention were the ravens, one of which decided to sit on the hood of the jeep, the bison, which ignored us more than anything, and also the coyotes, which enjoyed being fed. On the way out of Yellowstone, a coyote, looking for a snack, came within a few feet of the car. The coyote probably thought we were making a sandwich for him, but little did he know that we were just putting in more film to take pictures.

Overall, the trip to Yellowstone was a blast, but I would recommend to anyone with the ambition to go in November, to wear lots of clothes, unless they are swimming in the river.

Thanksgiving Food Drive
Nov. 18–22
Please bring money and non-perishable food items to the donation jars and boxes located in the atrium. All donations will be given to local families and individuals in need.

Soup Lunch
Thursday, Nov. 21
11:30 – 1:00 pm
In the Atrium.
1$ with a can of food
Or
2$ without

Christmas Tree Cut
November 23, 2002
8:00 or 9:00
Contact Margaret G for more info —
slkd@gmail.com

Christmas Social
Dec. 5, 2002
4:00 in the atrium
Food, Fun, and Friends!

Police Blotter
October 29, 2002 – Police responded to the SER building on a complaint that there was a pig loose on the second floor. The animal had been shut inside the janitorial closet before police arrived. Logan City Animal Control also responded and transported the animal to the Skaggs Building where it belonged.

** An NR student who claimed to have witnessed the event, commented that the Senator of the College of Engineering was there when the pig was loose and that the pig appeared to be greased. Was this some act of revenge against the engineers for stealing the CNR’s beloved Paul? Or was it merely just a funny joke? Who knows?