

Staff: Zac Moore, Eric Larson, Amie June Brumble
Editor: Brandon Barton
Advisor: Joseph Ulliman

ANNUAL CNR BBQ

Zac Moore

Once again the College of Natural Resources Annual BBQ went off without a hitch, and as usual it was great to see everyone from the lowly freshman to the esteemed faculty of the CNR all mingling and sucking down BBQ smoke together. It is a great thing to see how any student seems to feel free to walk up to a faculty member and speak to him or her about anything from an uncooked burger (not that there were any, the food was great) to a class being taken.

And I ask you, what would a BBQ be without games? I can't picture a CNR BBQ without a few games, so, in holding with tradition, this year saw several. This year's games included: the Little Pickle Toss, won by John Teeters for the men and Rebecca McCune for the women, a Roping Competition that seemed to best everyone who tried it (including me), a Spike Driving

Competition that was won by RJ Buster, a Mouse Trap Setting Competition won by the team of Joshua Read and Collin Leach with 19 traps set and Fly and Spinning Rod Casting Competitions that were won by George LaBarr and Ben Thornes respectively. Each winner was awarded a T-shirt supplied by the CNR and a warm round of applause by their peers.

It is rare that students and faculty are given the opportunity to interact outside of the academic world of college life, and it is even more rare that so many people take part in making such an occasion a success. It is a wonderful thing to see students and faculty come together and have a little fun, which is what the CNR BBQ always seems to provide. A special thanks to all that helped with the event and to everyone who made the CNR BBQ a success again this year.



Faculty Faces--Dr. David H. Bennett

Eric Larson

During his childhood in Connecticut, Dr. David H. Bennett enjoyed hunting, fishing, and baseball, but it was not until his junior year in college that he decided to make his interest in the outdoors a career. Following this decision, however, he immersed himself entirely in his profession, working throughout the United States on animals as diverse as snakes, alligators, and warm water fish, until finally coming to the University of Idaho where he currently serves as a Professor of Fishery Resources.

Born in Waterbury, Connecticut, Dr. Bennett earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees at the University of Connecticut, and later acquired his Ph.D. at Virginia Tech. While attending school, Dr. Bennett acquired an interest in wildlife management while working on student research projects, and was ultimately compelled to pursue careers in wildlife and fisheries as a result of concerns over declining resource bases and the impact of development activities on natural resources. He also claims that his best career-related experience in college occurred when an irate conservation officer dragged him off a boat and placed him in a county jail for four hours. Dr. Bennett explains that this occurrence imparted upon him the importance of proper communications in this profession.

Following his college education, Dr. Bennett worked on numerous research projects. However, he claims that the work he most enjoyed occurred while he was employed at the Savannah River Plant near Aiken, South Carolina. Here he had the opportunity to study the ecology and reproductive cycles of poisonous snakes and alligators, while working with some of the United States' best ecologists and experiencing the demands placed on full-time researchers.

Eventually Dr. Bennett was lured to the University of Idaho by the massive resource base located in this region as well as by the potential to study warm water fishes, which were not considered as important by the fishery managers of this area at that time. He is currently a professor of Fish Ecology (Fish 314) as well as Fishery/Wildlife Resources Profession (Fish/Wildlife 102), a course he is teaching with Dr. Kerry Reese. His current research projects include assessing the effects of fluctuating water levels on the Lake Pond Oreille and Columbia River ecosystems, as well as quantifying predator fish abundance and prey consumption in the Snake and Columbia Rivers.

When asked what advice he would like to give to current students of the College of Natural Resources, Dr. Bennett first emphasizes that it is helpful to stay out of county jails, the incident that had such a profound impact on his college days. He would also like to encourage students to get involved and stay involved in natural resource societies and clubs, acquire experience working with professors in fields of interest, and earn at least a 3.0 GPA so that they remain eligible for graduate school even if they do not currently believe they are interested in pursuing masters or doctorate degrees. As far as his own future is concerned, Dr. Bennett would like to continue teaching and working with graduate students, and would like to work with U.S. Aid or the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization in Central or South American at some time in the future.

Silent Conversation With A Little Brother

Kimberly M. Stout

Lush green grasses, junipers and a shaggy birch tree flow into a worn bike path just outside a tattered building. In the blink of an eye a small round body interrupts the worn earth of the path. I am surprised by this new addition to the scenery and stop short of my next step to stare down at this wondrous creature.

The small figure is engulfed by a down so soft I can feel it through my gaze. The coloration resembles the soft, flaky, golden brown color of toast. The body is accompanied by an oval face to which is attached two tall, slender ears. The face is characterized by two large, round, dark chocolate eyes; a muzzle the rich golden color of butter, and an abundance of transparent whiskers.

Beneath its golden brown body peeks a puff of

soft white fur, deeming this charming creature a cottontail rabbit. As I stand in the bike path watching this marvelous wonder of nature, he presses himself closer to the ground, practicing the logic that if he doesn't move I can no longer see him. I step down the path talking to young Mr. Cottontail as I go, assuring him that all is well. As I get closer his body relaxes but his eyes never leave me. He seems comfortable in my presence and I marvel in his. Then, with one short, quick bound, his small brown body disappears into the tangled mass of junipers bordering the path, leaving me to wonder whether our silent conversation meant as much to him as it did to me.

Take time to enjoy the little things in life. You never realize how precious something is until it's gone.



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Ted Nugent makes some Christmas cookies