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We're on the Web!

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 Email with story ideas!
 THANKS to Diana Smith for
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The Fisheries and Wildlife major:

Fisheries and wildlife professionals are responsible for the conservation, protection, regulation, and management of our nation's fish and wildlife resources. Their management strategies must provide for both consumptive (hunting, fishing) and non-consumptive uses (bird watching, non-game species enhancement, threatened and endangered species protection, and others).

Students who successfully fulfill the requirements in the fisheries and wildlife major are prepared to enter postgraduate programs as well as competitively enter the work force. The breadth of the curriculum prepares graduates to address complex environmental issues and to interact professionally with a multitude of natural resources disciplines to develop solutions to problems. Typical careers for graduates of this major include fisheries biologist or wildlife biologist with private consulting firms and zoos, as well as with governmental resource management agencies at the local, state, or federal level.

Students in the fisheries and wildlife major are encouraged to choose from several career paths as they select their coursework: Aquatic Ecology, Conservation Biology, Fisheries Ecology and Management, Geospatial Information Sciences, Habitat Management, Law Enforcement, Wildlife Damage Management, Wildlife Ecology and Management, and Zoo Animal Care.

Sandhills research project at Barta Brothers Ranch

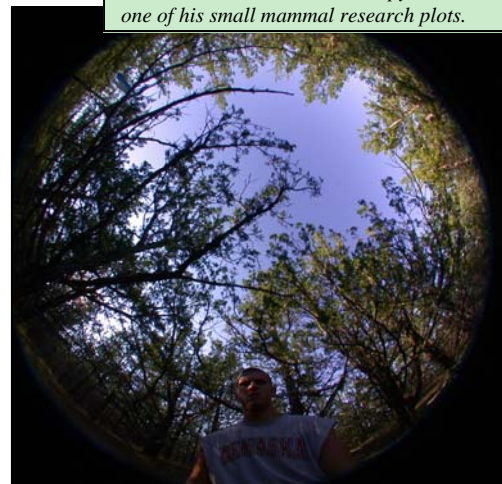
By Nicholas Dobesh
 Senior, F&W major

I conducted research this past summer on small mammals at the Brata Brother's Ranch in north central Nebraska. The project was my first year in the UCARE Program with Dr. David Wedin, and was my second year with UNL's Sand Hills Biocomplexity Project. Working with small mammals was one of the most exciting experiences because this was my first experience with small mammals, and running an experiment that I designed.

I used trap webs to look at species composition in four dif-

ferent habitats. To study the effect of long-term disturbance on species composition I will be adding two more webs. This will be conducted in plots that are under forced long term-disturbance as part of the Grassland Destabilization Experiment (GDEX). I anticipate that the composition of mammals will shift to species that prefer open-sand, but total number of captures may not change.

Nicholas Dobesh peers into the lens of a camera used to determine canopy cover on one of his small mammal research plots.



2005 FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE STUDENT FOCUS

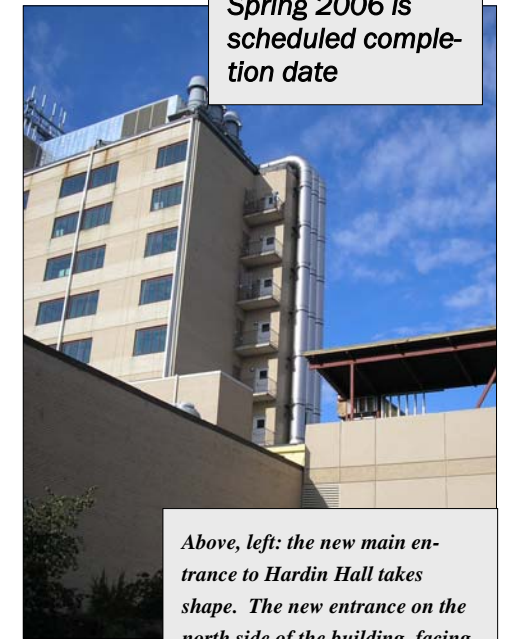
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Student facilities in Hardin Hall nearing completion



Spring 2006 is scheduled completion date



Above, left: the new main entrance to Hardin Hall takes shape. The new entrance on the north side of the building, facing the rest of East Campus, will be used by most students and visitors entering the building. Right: the tower where faculty offices will be located.



Left: Professor Drew Tyre checks some specs for a room with Cindy Hayes, the School's building planning coordinator. Right: cabinets are ready for installation in one of two new teaching labs that will replace 102 Natural Resources Hall.

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Bored?! Look at these new Spring Courses!

By Larkin Powell

F&W Undergraduate Coordinator

Spring 2006 brings a wealth of new courses to Fisheries and Wildlife students. See your advisor about the following courses, offered for the first time:

Law Enforcement Seminar (NRES 299): Mark Webb, USFWS Law Enforcement Officer, will be offering a 1-credit seminar that will provide an introduction to

wildlife law enforcement.

Herpetology (BIOS 474): Dennis Ferraro, Nebraska's State Herpetologist will be offering a 4-credit Herpetology course.

Disturbance Ecology (NRES 496): Dr. David Wedin will not be offering Forest Ecology this spring, but will be leading a 1-credit seminar that focuses on the role of disturbance in the Boundary Waters Wilderness

Ecosystem. A great preparation for the canoe trip in May 2006!

Tropical Ecology (NRES 315): Dr. Larkin Powell will be leading a spring break field trip to Puerto Rico, intended to be a low-cost Study Abroad opportunity.

Ichthyology (NRES 489): It's not a new course, but we have a new fisheries ecologist. Dr. Mark Pegg will be teaching Ichthyology for the first time.

Ishibashi spends summer in Japan on internship with Ueno Zoological Gardens

By Minako Ishibashi

Junior, F&W major

During this past summer, I was able to do an internship at the oldest, biggest and the most famous zoo in Japan, exhibiting about 326 species of animal called Ueno Zoological Gardens. I was always fascinated by this zoo from childhood, and I have participated in many events whenever I had chance from kindergarten to high school, and doing a zoo work there had always been one of my dreams.

I was able to be in charge of the Asian elephant, Japanese macaque and the polar bear. And, other than cleaning their cages and preparing foods, I have learned things like how to train the elephants using Thai language and by actually riding

on them, and how to take care of the abandoned baby macaque. I was also given a chance to work with other zoo-keepers and learn about other animal's life style such as pandas, gorillas and lions. Besides working with the animals, I also had to work as a translator for people from foreign countries, to explain and translate about the animals.

All these experiences were challenging for me, and by actually experiencing what I wanted



Minako Ishibashi takes time from her internship duties to pose next to a panda at the Ueno Zoological Garden in Japan.

to do have given me the real image of the job, and made me see both the fun and hard parts. This opportunity to do this internship has become the springboard for me to feel more confident about my goal as being a zoo worker at this zoo.

Wildlife club given wolf hybrid pelt for education

By Ryan Walrath

Senior, F&W major

Last spring the UNL Wildlife Club obtained a road kill carcass resembling a wolf hybrid from Dave Oates and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in Lincoln. The animal was killed along Highway 75 between Plattsmouth and Bellevue, in Sarpy County, NE on February 2004.

The Wildlife Club asked Dr. Scott Hygnstrom, a School of Natural Resources professor, to assist in skinning the animal. A group of wildlife club members gathered at the Vet Diagnostic Lab on East Campus to conduct the skinning process. Members were able to gain hands on experience in the skinning process and utilize basic forensic techniques to make an educated guess about the cause of death.

The skull was disarticulated from the neck and taken to a lab in Nebraska Hall on City Campus. Excess muscle tissue was removed, remaining muscle tissue was allowed to dry and the skull was cleaned and preserved by Thomas Labeledz, NU State Museum Collections Manager.

Speculation about the validity of the animal being a hybrid wolf arose when Dr. Patricia Freeman, a professor of the School of Natural Resources and Curator of Zoology in the NU State Museum, measured the



Cody Adams and Sarah Moore hold the wolf hybrid skin after preparation last spring. Students worked with Dr. Scott Hygnstrom to skin the animal in the Vet Diagnostic Lab (photo by Kent Fricke).

length of the carnassial tooth pair. The measurement of the tooth in addition to distinguishing features of the skull led her to the conclusion the animal could potentially be a true wolf.

The news of the possibility of the animal being a true wolf eventually made its way to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. On May 16, 2005 the skull was seized by Special Agent Mark Webb. The skull, along with a tissue sample from the hide, was sent to the National Fish & Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon. The lab determined that "the skull conforms to published craniometrics and to direct comparison with osteological standards of known wolf/dog hybrids."

The School of Natural Resources and the UNL Wildlife Club currently have possession of the wolf/dog hybrid skull and pelt., as it is not a true wolf and does not have protection under the Endangered Species Act. The UNL Wildlife Club will use the skull and pelt for educational purposes through Project Wild and other activities.

The UNL Wildlife Club and Dr. Scott Hygnstrom sent the wolf/dog hybrid pelt to Chris Pool, a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, in Wilcox, Nebraska. The fleshing and tanning of the pelt was done by Turkey Creek Taxidermy. The cost of the fleshing and tanning was donated by the School of Natural Resources.