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Wildlife Club active in hunter education

By Kent Fricke

Wildlife Club President

On October 23, 2004, 54 students graduated from a Hunter Education course, taught in part by eight members of the UNL Wildlife Club. The class, held at the Isaac Walton League facilities near Bennett, Nebraska, was held on the evenings of October 20 and 21, and concluded October 23. Certified Instructors from the Club included Trevor Schmidt, Kent Fricke, Tom Buell and Zach Cunningham. Apprentice Instructors were Kelly Cormican, Cody Adams,

A MAJOR IN... FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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.



Wildlife club members instruct proper firearm use during a recent hunter education course, conducted with the NE Game and Parks Commission.

Nick Dobesh and Ryan Walrath. Instructors Jeff Rawlinson (Nebraska Game and Parks Commission), Wes Sheets (Isaac Walton League), and Neil Miles (Nebraska State Patrol) were also present during the class.

UNL's Wildlife Club has helped teach one Hunter Education class each semester since the fall of 2002.



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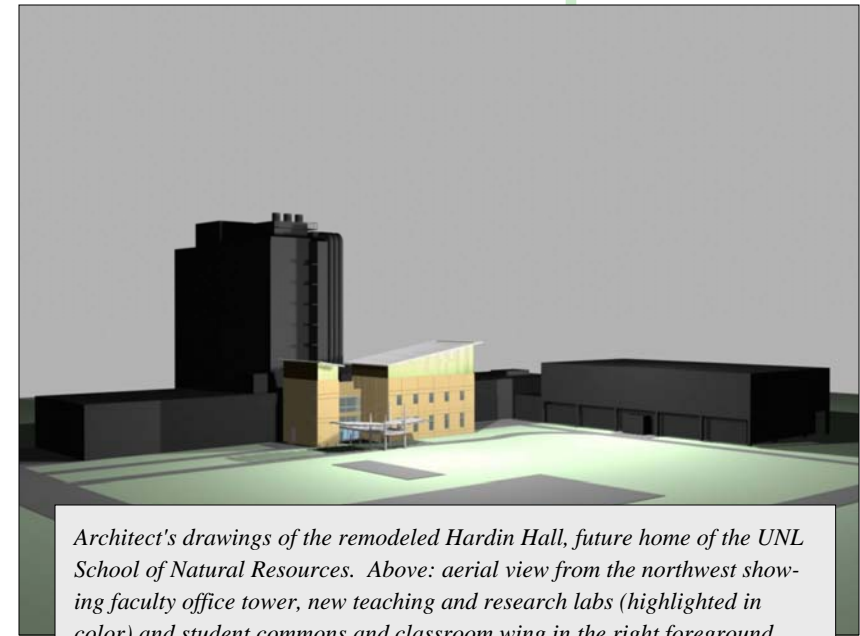
Fisheries and Wildlife ready to move into expanded facilities in Hardin Hall

Classrooms open by Spring 2006

The home base of Fisheries and Wildlife will be moving to Hardin Hall, on the corner of 33rd and Holdrege, during Fall Semester 2005. It is a long-awaited move for many faculty and students, who have made the most of the facilities in Natural Resources Hall.

The fate of "NRH" remains unknown. But, Hardin Hall—formerly the Continuing Education complex—has been entirely gutted, and rooms are being created to house Natural Resources programs.

In addition to new faculty offices in the former 'hotel tower', the complex will house 3 teaching computer labs (one open 24/7 for students), one lecture room, two teaching laboratories, a student study room, an advising center, and several research labs.



Architect's drawings of the remodeled Hardin Hall, future home of the UNL School of Natural Resources. Above: aerial view from the northwest showing faculty office tower, new teaching and research labs (highlighted in color) and student commons and classroom wing in the right foreground. Below: detail of new north entrance and fisheries and wildlife labs (Images courtesy of Alley-Poyner Architects).



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Dr. Mark Pegg is the new fisheries professor!

By Larkin Powell

UNL Wildlife Professor

For 30 years, Dr. Ed Peters has served as the fisheries professor at UNL; he plans to retire in the summer of 2005. In February, Dr. Mark Kuzila, Director of the School of Natural Resources, announced that Dr. Peters' successor will be Dr. Mark Pegg.

Mark is currently the Director of the Illinois River Biological Station, with the Illinois Natural History Survey in Havana, Illinois.

He received his BS (1992) and PhD (2000) from Iowa State University, working on the Missouri River for his graduate work. He received an MS degree from Tennessee Technological University in 1994.

Dr. Pegg will be teaching many of the courses that Dr. Peters has taught, including Fisheries Science and Ichthyology. Mark will arrive at UNL in August.



Dr. Mark Pegg hoists an invasive Asian big-head carp from the Illinois River. Next fall, UNL students will have the opportunity to be involved in similar research with Dr. Pegg.

UNL's Women in Science recognizes Fisheries and Wildlife majors: Kobayashi and Hayes

By Larkin Powell

UNL Wildlife Professor

Fisheries and Wildlife students Naoko Kobayashi (junior) and LeNae Hayes (senior) were recognized by the Graduate Women in Science at a banquet on February 8th, 2005. Both young women have achieved high academic success while at UNL.

Mark Kuzila, Director of the School of Natural Resources, gave the students certificates of their achievement at a banquet at the Cornhusker Hotel. Their advisor, Larkin Powell, commended the women on their accomplishments.

Hayes transferred to UNL from Brigham Young University and will be seeking an internship



Naoko Kobayashi (left) and LaNae Hayes (right) were recognized by their advisor, Larkin Powell, at the 2005 Women in Science Banquet.

with the Henry Doorly Zoo this summer.

Kobayashi will be heading to Mexico during the fall semester

for a biology study abroad. She is interested in a career in International Conservation.



Wildlife club plans Spring Banquet: NWRC's VerCauteren to discuss Chronic Wasting Disease

By Steve Ress

School of Natural Resources
Communications Coordinator

Deer disease and damage research at the National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, CO highlights an April 16 student awards banquet for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Wildlife Club.

The 40th annual UNL Wildlife Club awards banquet is 6 p.m. Saturday, April 16 at the UNL East Campus Union. Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door and \$13 for students. To purchase in advance, contact a member of the Wildlife Club or Diana Smith at UNL's School of

Natural Resources at (402) 472-2188. Seating is limited and tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Banquet speaker Kurt VerCauteren is a research wildlife biologist for the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC). He earned Masters' and Ph.D. degrees through UNL's School of Natural Resources, focusing much of his graduate research on white-tailed deer. He continues that work at the NWRC, which is the wildlife disease and damage research branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

VerCauteren will speak on diseases impacting deer popula-

tions, such as chronic wasting disease, and ways to reduce crop and property damage deer can cause.

"He will discuss his current research work and his career path, highlighting what he learned and the opportunities that opened up for him while he was a graduate student here," said UNL wildlife ecologist Larkin Powell, who helps sponsor UNL's wildlife club.

At the banquet, the Howard L. Weigers Nebraska Outstanding Wildlife Conservation and Wildlife Club Outstanding Student Awards will be presented.

Student research: Walrath uses radio telemetry in Canada

By Ryan Walrath

Junior, Fisheries and Wildlife

During the summer of 2004 I headed north to Manitoba, Canada to work as a volunteer research technician for Justin Pitt, a graduate student from the University of Saskatoon in Saskatchewan, Canada. We were studying the home range, habitat use and body condition of raccoons (*Procyon lotor*).

My job was to utilize radio telemetry to locate raccoons with radio collars. I helped with three

live trapping sessions on the study site and was also able to help collect raccoons and skunks from local trappers in North Dakota. Occasionally, I helped with other projects which included species such as skunks, mallard ducks, ruddy ducks and American coots.

The position gave me an opportunity to enhance my field techniques, get hands on experience with a variety of vertebrate species and work with people from North and South America.



Ryan Walrath holds an anesthetized raccoon shortly after marking it with a radio transmitter, prior to release.