



## Natural Resources Management and Engineering

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[www.canr.uconn.edu/nrme](http://www.canr.uconn.edu/nrme)

NRME and UConn have many student run organizations related to Natural Resources. Two are featured in this issue of the NRME News. The Wildlife Society is a UConn chapter affiliated with the national organization of the same name. The Forestry and Wildlife Club was established on campus in the 1920's and is affiliated only with the university. To submit information about other clubs and societies please see the section titled Submission Information below.

### THE UCONN WILDLIFE SOCIETY

*By: Adam Dubour, President*

The UConn Chapter of the Wildlife Society aims to serve students interested in all aspects of wildlife science through various activities, guest lecturers and field trips. Past activities have included trips to Roger Williams Zoo and whale watching off the coast of Massachusetts, maintenance and monitoring of bluebird boxes, and interaction with professionals in the field through presentations and hands on demonstrations. Meetings are generally scheduled around activities and club members are notified through an e-mail list.

At the last meeting Jane Seymour of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Wildlife Division gave a short talk. She offered to do some work with us. One suggestion is a field trip to the Belding Wildlife Management Area in Vernon where Jane will show us some invasive plants, talk about how they are managed and allow us to participate in their removal. Another suggestion is a bird identification training and survey techniques workshop on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. The Weekend of November 5<sup>th</sup> is suggested for this activity, before it gets too cold and the leaves fall off the trees. Another activity Jane brought up is a training demonstration using radio telemetry tracking equipment. This can be right here at UConn and as late in the semester as needed for scheduling purposes.

If interested in participating in the above activities or to be added to the e-mail list or for any other general

questions please send an e-mail to Adam Dubour at: [uconnwildlife@yahoo.com](mailto:uconnwildlife@yahoo.com).

### THE UCONN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE CLUB

*By: Ed Belinsky, President*

The forestry and Wildlife club is designed for anyone who has a love for the outdoors and an interest in learning more about the ecological world around them. We do numerous activities in the UConn forest including planned hikes and camping, maple syrup and apple cider production, wildlife management projects and many other things that interest club members. We welcome new members at any time throughout the semester, from any major. Interested parties can contact Ed Belinsky at [edward.belinsky@uconn.edu](mailto:edward.belinsky@uconn.edu) for information about future meetings.

### FREE PATAGONIA EXPEDITION

The Wildlife Society and the Forestry and Wildlife Club are raffling off a spot on this years scientific expedition to Patagonia, Chile with Dr. Morty Ortega. Raffle tickets will cost \$25 each and all proceeds will go towards funding club activities. Not including airfare the trip fee is \$2,500. The winner is responsible for paying their own airfare which would amount to about \$1,400. If interested in purchasing a ticket please send an e-mail to [uconnwildlife@yahoo.com](mailto:uconnwildlife@yahoo.com) by *Friday, November 4th*.

Editor's Note: Dr. Ortega hosts this expedition on an annual basis during winter intersession. Anyone may participate in the research as well as enjoy the beautiful country and culture of Chile. Visit the expedition website at: <http://www.canr.uconn.edu/paine/index.html>

### THE RELUCTANT TRACKER

*By: Kersey Lawrence*

After five years in Hawaii I am happy to be back on the mainland where there are animals to track. Don't get me wrong, Hawaii was great and there was plenty of nice sand to track in, but tracking people and their dogs is not my thing. I probably could have learned a

lot more from people and dogs with a better attitude about it, but I didn't. Now I am back to the land of predator and prey and all that I have forgotten (or never knew) is overwhelming! Worse yet, people who know that I enjoy tracking actually expect me to know something about it! For this reason, I have been intimidated by the thought of getting back out into the woods with other people, especially when they ask me to teach them something. I have been spending some time alone in the woods to reacquaint myself with species and patterns that I used to know, both because I enjoy it, and to practice - in case anyone else asks me questions!

The other day, I was looking at some clear mammal tracks in mud, I pondered the species, speed and direction, was it comfortable or in a hurry, what time did it pass through, where was it looking and going, was it a male or female, which were the front and which were the rear feet, left and right? While I tried to answer these questions, I remembered the words of one of my teachers, Tom Brown; "When you track alone, you are always right." Hmmm... even when I am wrong.

Another teacher, Jon Young, had told me that when a group of people stand around a set of tracks, each person sees the tracks from a different. For example, a person across from me might see different shading or detail as a consequence of the angle of light from where they are standing. Another person might not be so focused on the footprints and notice scratch marks surrounding them. Another person might have personal knowledge of the local wildlife or of recent weather to contribute. Everyone has something to add that facilitates learning. Two minds are better than one, and more are even better.

So I guess it is time to come out of the tracking closet and accept the fact that I will never "always be right", and that everyone else has something to teach me as well as I might have something to offer. After all, the truly great thing about nature is that we can never know it all! Therefore, anyone interested in a short presentation about tracking and getting involved in some campus tracking activities, please contact me.

In the meantime, following are two pictures of the mammal tracks I already mentioned, taken two weeks ago, about 10 am, beside the Quabbin Reservoir in Massachusetts. The top picture is of a set of four footprints; the bottom picture is a close up of the two prints farthest to the right. The quarter is for scale. Please e mail me your answers, including best guesses, to the questions I asked, and I will publish the "correct" answer in the next NRME News!



### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Oct 24 Registration for Spring 2006 begins
- Nov 1 Last day to drop a course
- Nov 2 Second annual CANR harvest Hoedown
- Nov 20 Thanksgiving recess begins
- Nov 26 Thanksgiving recess ends

### **SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

To submit articles or information to NRME News by faculty, students, clubs or organizations contact: Kersey at WBY Office 5, phone: 486-1259, e mail: [Kirstin.Lawrence-Apfel@uconn.edu](mailto:Kirstin.Lawrence-Apfel@uconn.edu), or see Deb in the Main NRME Office.



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