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MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Steve Oriol, Cal Poly Logging Team  
(831) 277-1785

## Western U.S. College Logging Teams Competing in Santa Cruz March 22-24

SANTA CRUZ -- College logging teams from universities across the West will compete in traditional lumberjack events and more modern forest resources management trials at Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch March 22-24. The competition offers plenty of good photo and video feature opportunities.

The event is the annual Association of Western Forestry Clubs Conclave -- an annual competition of college student logging teams from forestry departments at universities in Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming and Utah.

The final event of the conclave, the Stihl Timbersports competition, will be telecast on ESPN U. Local news crews are welcome to film at any of the conclave events; all media are invited to cover or shoot events. The competition is free and open to the public; however attendees should bring their own lawn chair seating, and rain gear.

The co-ed logging teams will compete in a series of contests involving physical skills and technical knowledge. Individual team members earn points toward a team total in contests including compass use, tree and plant species identification (dendrology), pole climbing, axe throwing, chopping, burling (in which competitors from two different teams stand on a log in water and try to dump the other in the water) and the "boom run" - a run across multiple logs in water.

Competition schedule of events:

### Wednesday, March 22, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

-- Burling, limber pole, boom run, dendrology, traverse, caber, power saw, OP, vertical HH, single buck.

### Thursday, March 23, 9 a.m. -5:30 p.m.

-- Axe throw preliminaries, choker, horizontal hard hit, speed climb, timber cruise, double buck, pulp toss.

### Friday, March 24, 9 a.m. - noon

-- Axe throw finals, choker finals, speed axe finals, speed climb finals, Jack and Jill, horizontal speed chop.

1 - 3 p.m. -- Stihl Timbersports Competition

Cal Poly Public Affairs has photos of previous years' conclave events; for jpgs or more details on the competition, contact Teresa Hendrix at [thendrix@calpoly.edu](mailto:thendrix@calpoly.edu). Swanton Pacific Ranch is located at 125 Swanton Road, Davenport, CA 95017. For more information about Swanton Pacific Ranch, visit: <http://www.spranch.org/>.

### Additional Contest Event Descriptions:

#### Caber:

Like the traditional Scottish Games Caber Toss. Individual contestants throw a large log; longest distance thrown wins.

#### Choker:

A race in which a competitor must grab a choker (a cable device used to extract logs from the forest), run an obstacle course simulating forest conditions, set the choker on a log and return to the start. The fastest time wins.

#### Horizontal Hard Hit:

A competitor stands on top of a log 11 to 13 inches in diameter and tries to chop through the log. Fewest number of hits wins.

**Vertical Hard Hit:** A competitor must split a log placed vertically in a clamp. Fewest number of hits wins.

#### Horizontal Speed Chop:

The competitor stands on top of a horizontally- mounted log, 11 to 13 inches in diameter, and cuts it in two with a single-bit axe. Competitor to cut the log into two pieces the fastest wins.

**Obstacle Pole:**

Competitors carrying chainsaws race up an inclined pole to cut off the end of the pole, then race back to the start. Fastest time wins.

**Power Saw:**

Individual competitors use chainsaws and appropriate safety equipment to cut through a log. Fastest time wins.

**Pulp Toss:**

A team of one man and one woman throw pulpwood pieces (four- foot long logs) back and forth for accuracy, one point per accurate log throw. Fastest time to get to 30 points wins.

**Speed Climb:**

Contestants climb a tree using spikes and a climbing belt. The men climb 50 feet and the women climb 30 feet. Fastest time to the top wins.

**Single Buck:** Individual competitors use a crosscut saw to cut through a log; fastest time wins.

**Double Buck:** A sawing event similar to single buck except two men or two women compete on the saw together as a team, one on either end of the two-handed crosscut saw.

**Jack and Jill:** A double buck sawing competition, with a two person co-ed team. Fastest time wins.

**Timber Cruise:**

Individual competitors visually estimate tree diameters and heights without the use of any measuring devices. The closest estimate wins.

**Traverse:** Compass use competition.

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**Cal Poly Public Affairs**

California Polytechnic State University  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407  
805.756.7266  
[polynews@calpoly.edu](mailto:polynews@calpoly.edu)