



Apple Valley Council
By: Glenna Withers

The Apple Valley Reading Council held its first meeting on Monday, September 21 at Peru State College hosted by the Auburn members. Several Peru State College Students attended this special “Guest Night” program. After dining on the college buffet, a short meeting was held encouraging all present to become members or renew membership of our organization and the International Reading Association. Peru Students were invited to apply for our Student Ambassador program. Julia Simon and Shane Mathis contacted Trudy Fankhauser, our Committee Chairperson, and will serve as our Student Ambassadors. Honorary Members were explained and members were asked to contact Sally Hutt to nominate people from their area that might like to join so an invitation letter could be sent to them.

Apple Valley was honored to have David Nieves for the program. Mr. Nieves is a professional herpetologist with a Biology Degree. He has attended the state reading convention for several years and has visited several schools in southeast Nebraska. He travels around the world conducting research, taking photos, and learning about wild life. He travels around the country with his reptile friends speaking to schools, libraries, zoos, museums, and educators about both his friends and writing. He uses a multimedia presentation and his live reptiles to excite students and teachers about reading and writing. His program called “Writing With Reptiles” which included science, humor, information, and inspiration amazed the audience. The hour and half (yes folks) of learning about the animals and how he uses them to teach 6 Trait writing just flew by. After the presentation, people had the opportunity to purchase his books titled; *Reptiles Up Close* and *More Reptiles Up Close* along with an autograph session. Visit his website for more information < <http://www.angelfire.com/mo2/reptilesupclose/>>.



David Nieves presents with his reptile friends.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 18, 2010 at Tecumseh, NE. Our Tecumseh members will be the host group for the evening. The program “Light the Torch with Bingo” will be provided by Pam Williams from Gum Drop Books.