



NRESi WEEKLY NEWS

October 27 - 31, 2014

A newsletter for faculty, staff and students
who participate in the
Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute
and NRES Graduate Programs

NRESi NOTES

FROM THE DIRECTOR & RESEARCH MANAGER

Hello everyone,

This week my NRESi note is a bit different. Instead of announcements, I would like to share a photo and story from Barry Booth, that includes some interesting natural history about our friends to the right. Read what he learned when he inquired about the beetle he found earlier this fall:

As confirmed by some UNBC entomologists, this photo is of a burying beetle, taken September 12, 2014. Burying beetles find carrion (e.g., birds, small mammals) bury it and lay their eggs on/in the carrion. Some species also engage in parental care of their young. The mites on the back of the beetle (can be seen if you zoom in on the photo) are phoretic, meaning they travel on the back of the beetle without being parasitic and may have mutualistic relationship, rather than commensal, with the beetles. The mites leave the beetle and prey on fly eggs and larvae located on/in the carrion, thereby potentially reducing the number of competitors of the beetle's larvae. Learn more about this [here](#).



Photo: B. Booth

Do you have some interesting facts or a story from your research that may be of interest to the group? Send it along and I will share it in an upcoming issue.

Happy Halloween!

Leanne Elliott
NRESi Research Manager



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PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: leanne.elliott@unbc.ca

We're on the web at : www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/newsletter

REMEMBERING DAN LOUSIER

On October 15, 2014, the UNBC community lost an important colleague, collaborator and dear friend. The following are a few personal reflections of a remarkable forest scientist and manager who inspired many of us by his committed efforts and generous spirit. For those who did not have an opportunity to know him, Dan was especially influential during the first decade of UNBC's activities, circa 1990's and early 2000's.

I first met Dan when we both participated to a specialized meeting on "root biology" in Victoria, in 1986, and then much later in Prince George, in 1994, when Dan was still working with the Ministry of Forests and when the University was officially opened. We were both entrenched in some level of microscopy and the study of soil organisms, challenged by the exploration of small creatures in the world beneath our feet!



In Willow River, 1999
Photo: H. Massicotte

Dan was one of our most prominent Canadian soil protozoologists. He had devoted an extensive period of time during his doctorate at the University of Calgary, under the thoughtful guidance of the late Dr. Dennis Parkinson, studying the life cycles on "Testate amoebae" in forest soils.

The first years of UNBC's functioning (1994-2000) were pretty "intense" and many of us felt blessed to have Dan's guidance when discussing important forest management issues, or when looking for people to contact in our field of research, or for approaches to take when writing grants. Dan's knowledge was encyclopedic. He was a phenomenal reader and a tireless writer of research proposals. He was the most optimistic grant writer I have ever known (and he was often quite successful!). He became a significant part of the UNBC cohort, as adjunct professor for many years and also as an industry liaison officer when working with the Vice-President Research at that time, Dr. Max Blouw. He helped many of us in the Forestry, Biology and Geography programs in many ways, including being an external examiner for graduate student theses. In everything he did, he was an advocate for science, for people, and for the north. He was always extremely generous with his time.

For many winters during that period, Dan also volunteered for special laboratory sessions for 2nd year students in my Forest Biology course. With the students, he explored the diversity and importance of soil organisms. And it became immediately obvious that Dan's contagious enthusiasm for organisms in his beloved soil world rapidly extended to the students. He was so keen and, in no time at all, he was in "great demand"! While assisting to these labs, he collaborated on making several videos on the behavior of protozoa; some of these we still use. Dan had many qualities, but one in particular was his patience. During labs, Dan would share many of his experiences in forest management. Students were attracted to his knowledge, his quiet demeanor, and his confidence. On several occasions, when cleaning up after the labs, I would find Dan riveted to the demonstration microscope, wanting to explore "just a little bit more" that preparation and commenting that he wished he could spend more time doing this.....

Over the years, Dan participated in several organizing committees for scientific meetings, including the conference on Ecology and Management of Northern Forest Soils, held at UNBC in June 1998, and co-organized by Madrone Consultants and Forest Renewal British Columbia. At the time, FRBC funding gave extra latitude to invite scientists in soil science from across Canada, Sweden and Finland, and to showcase what UNBC was doing in soil sciences.



Some participants at the IUFRO meeting on roots in forest soils in 1986 in Victoria. Dan and Hugues are on the back row.

Photo from: H. Massicotte

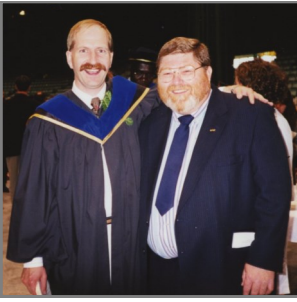


A birthday function (circa 1999) where singers (Annie Booth, Art Fredeen, Ted Newberry, Ken Parker, Dave Leman, Hugues Massicotte, Mike Gillingham & Dan) are executing the theme song, after a skit involving a duck...

Photo from: H. Massicotte

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Hugues & Dan at
Convocation, 1999
Photo from: H. Massicotte

Aside from science, some of my fondest memories were singing with Dan while he played away on his keyboard. The choir-group at that time, circa 1998-1999, consisted of impromptu, unrehearsed, faculty members. And one of the old theme songs of the day was "Those were the days my friends, we thought they'd never end". It was always a triumph (from the singers point of view). Although these shared musical gatherings were spontaneous, mostly rare events, they were great fun and often provided much needed respite from our busy academic lives. Dan, and his wonderful spirit, will be greatly missed by all of us.

An online tribute can be viewed [here](#).

- Hugues Massicotte, October 30th, 2014

COMING EVENTS

NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Dr. Richard Waring
Professor Emeritus, College of Forestry
Oregon State University



What to do When a Good Model Goes Bad?

We all construct models in our head that help us plan our day's routine...how long it will take to go to work, to prepare dinner, to watch a game of soccer. Occasionally sometime happens to upset our schedule, but that doesn't mean our model is wrong, as long as we have an explanation. Scientists construct models with a hope that they will apply universally. But even the best of these models occasionally fail. When good models fail, it's disappointing, but offers an opportunity to advance science. I will present three examples showing how advancement came from understanding the reason that good models failed. These examples include modeling transpiration, forest growth, and tree mortality from bark beetles.

Friday, OCT 31st, 2014

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Room: Weldwood Theatre (7-238)

To participate remotely: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html

OTHER UNBC EVENTS

**GLOBAL FRIDAYS
ROOM 5-183
12:00pm - 1:30pm**

From Resource Development to Economic Development: The Alaska Experience

Dr. Lee Huskey
Professor, Economics Department
University of Alaska Anchorage
October 31, 2014

Global Friday presentations will be available to remote participants on Livestream:
www.unbc.ca/livestream

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OTHER UNBC EVENTS

TERRACE LECTURE SERIES

4837 Keith Avenue,
Terrace, BC
Room 103/104
12:00pm - 1:00pm

The Undeveloped Potential of Municipal Governance

Andre Carrel
Columnist, Terrace Standard
November 5, 2014

The nucleus of democracy's philosophy is one of citizens being engaged and taking responsibility for the governing of their own communities. The election is the only process in municipal government which engages citizens in a formal and decisive manner. The extension of council terms to four years weakens the citizens' already weak role and amplifies the necessity for municipal councils to empower the citizens who elected them to accept greater responsibility in the governance of their community.

This presentation will also be available to remote participants by following on [Livestream](#).

IN THE NEWS

David Connell contributes to a discussion about the Site C hydroelectricity development project and the impact on agriculture and food security for the north into the future. See the article [here](#).

This week, UNBC matched its best result in the annual Maclean's rankings of Canadian universities, placing second in its category. Read more [here](#).

EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

Faculty Positions: One in Oceanography and One in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences

The College of the Environment at the University of Washington (<http://coenv.uw.edu>) invites applications for two new tenure-track assistant professor positions, as part of its continuing commitment to research and education on Earth's polar regions through the Future of Ice Initiative (<http://ice.uw.edu>). This campus-wide initiative focuses on developing partnerships with diverse stakeholders in the polar regions, where the triple challenges of climate change, new economic pressures, and rapid social and political disruption intersect. Descriptions of the new positions, one in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences and one in the School of Oceanography, are given below. University of Washington faculty engage in teaching, research and service. The successful candidates are expected to enhance the University of Washington's multidisciplinary research in polar science, develop an externally funded research program, mentor the next generation of scientists, and contribute to rigorous education serving an increasingly diverse student population at the graduate and undergraduate levels. The University of Washington promotes diversity and inclusivity among our students, faculty, staff, and public; for each of these faculty positions, we seek applicants who are committed to these principles.

To apply, send curriculum vitae with publication list, statements of research and teaching interests with reference to diversity/inclusivity, and the names and contact information of four references. Applications should clearly indicate the position sought; i.e., in SAFS or in SO. Electronic materials are preferred; send to Fol@uw.edu. Hard copies can be sent to Future of Ice Initiative – Quaternary Research Center, University of Washington, Box 351310, Seattle, WA 98195-1310. Applications should be received prior to December 15th, 2014, to ensure full consideration.

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Assistant Professor, tenure-track, in School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (SAFS)

We seek to hire an integrative scientist who will advance our understanding of ecological processes and ongoing changes in high-latitude (polar or subpolar) marine or freshwater ecosystems. We seek an ecologist whose research focuses on basic and/or applied questions and may include, but is not limited to, high latitude fisheries or broader ecosystem studies across multiple trophic levels from zooplankton to seabirds and marine mammals. Applicants should describe how their research and teaching will enhance collaborative linkages within the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences and among other partners in the Future of Ice Initiative. Questions pertaining to this search can be addressed to Dr. Gordon Holtgrieve, Search Committee member (gholt@uw.edu) until 19 November and afterwards to Dr. George Hunt, Search Committee Chair, (geohunt2@uw.edu). More information on SAFS can be found at <http://fish.washington.edu/>

Assistant Professor, tenure-track, in School of Oceanography (SO)

We seek to hire an integrative scientist who will contribute to an understanding of biological processes and ongoing changes in high-latitude (polar or subpolar) marine ecosystems. We are interested particularly, though not exclusively, in candidates whose research focuses on the physiology, ecology or biogeography of lower trophic levels. Research approaches may include field observations, remote sensing, laboratory experimentation, genomics and bioinformatics, or modeling. Applicants should describe how their research and teaching will enhance collaborative linkages between disciplines within the School of Oceanography and among other partners in the Future of Ice Initiative. Questions pertaining to this search can be addressed to Dr. Jody Deming, Search Committee Chair, (jdeming@uw.edu). More information on the School of Oceanography can be found at <http://ocean.washington.edu>.

University of Washington is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to, among other things, race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, status as protected veterans, or status as qualified individuals with disabilities. The University of Washington is recognized for supporting the work-life balance of its faculty. A PhD is required at the time of appointment.

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS & STORIES

Do you have a favourite photo, story or update from your research that you would like to share with your fellow members and the broader NRESi community in the newsletter? Send them to Leanne to include in an upcoming edition!

COLLOQUIUM ARCHIVE

Did you miss a colloquium or special lecture? Visit NRESi's webcast archive to catch up! This can be found through the following link: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/colloquium-series/archived-colloquium-series>

ARCHIVE OF PAST EVENTS

Information, links, proceedings, and other information from past NRESi hosted and co-led events can be found at: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/special-events>. This site currently includes information about the Forest Tenure events (Annual Lecture and workshop) and a link to the Cumulative Effects Workshop site.

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