



NRES NEWS June 2008

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

THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Nicholas Bartell is a candidate for the degree:
Master of Science in Natural Resources And Environmental Studies (Biology)

Mr. Bartell will be defending his thesis entitled:

"A MICROSATELLITE ANALYSIS OF THE WESTERN CANADIAN MOUNTAIN
PINE BEETLE (*DENDROCTONUS PONDEROSAE*)
EPIDEMIC: PHYLOGEOGRAPHY AND LONG DISTANCE DISPERSAL PATTERNS"

Supervisor: Dr. Brent Murray

Date: June 12, 2008

Time: 9:00 am

Room: Senate Chambers Room 1079
Administration Building
UNBC Prince George Campus

UPCOMING SYMPOSIUM and WORKSHOP

AMPHIBIAN DECLINE, CONSERVATION AND MONITORING: ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES IN CENTRAL INTERIOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Northern Amphibian Monitoring Outpost Society of British Columbia (NAMOS BC) is hosting a mini-symposium and workshop at UNBC from **June 23-24**. We have two visiting amphibian ecologists as guest speakers who will present on the spread and presence of chytrid fungus in the amphibians of British Columbia, and on wood-frog phylogeography. The purpose of this mini-symposium and workshop is to discuss the status and importance of amphibians in relation to our communities, wetlands, and forests and what NAMOS BC is doing to raise awareness about amphibian issues in our local area. A goal of the workshop is to generate discussion about amphibian ecology and conservation in the central interior of British Columbia.

Themes and topics will include global amphibian declines, First Nations Dalkelh frog clan values and connections, raising public awareness, wetland restoration, habitat loss, research, and training citizen scientists to conduct surveys and assist in monitoring local amphibians or their habitat for signs of decline.

For further information please contact:

Mark Thompson
Email: thompsma@unbc.ca
Phone: 250-960-5572 (office) OR 250-960-5730 (lab)

NAMOS BC 

REMINDER: Share your information about recent publications, grants, and/or other honours you may have received with others interested in NRES issues.

PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO ELISSA ZEMLAK: zemplak@unbc.ca

COMING EVENTS

UNBC is hosting the 2008 Canadian Soil Science Meetings, July 6-10. The conference is organized by **Paul Sanborn** (chair), **Mike Rutherford** (scientific program) and **Bill McGill**. Brenda Kiland, Kathy Josephson and Conference Services have provided assistance. Over 190 presentations will be made July 7-9; selected topics include: carbon and nitrogen cycling, microbial ecology and processes, landscape processes, soil survey and classification, soil physics, synchrotron techniques, gas emissions from soils, soil fertility and nutrients, reclamation, use of wastes and amendments in soils. Paul has planned three field trips for July 10.

Visit our website at: <http://resweb.res.unbc.ca/csss2008/index.htm>

CONGRATULATIONS

To Christina Tennant (NRES/Geography Grad student) a recipient of one of the 2007/2008 Geomatics Canada Scholarships. Her scholarship includes a certificate, a cash award of \$2500 as well as a one-year membership with the Canadian Institute of Geomatics.

CONVOCATION

On May 30 the UNBC Community celebrated Convocation, the NRES Institute would like to congratulate the following:

CONGRATULATIONS to **Pat Maher** and **Jim Windsor** on receiving an *Excellence in Teaching Award* and to **Mark Shrimpton** and **Ken Otter** on receiving a *Research and Graduate Award*.

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our graduating NRES students!



PRESENTATIONS

Art Fredeen presented a talk entitled: "Land-use and greenhouse gases in central B.C." to the AGM for the Regional BC Institute of Agrologists in Prince George on May 22, 2008.

PUBLICATIONS

Rea, R.V. and K.N. Child. 2007. Wildlife Data Center Featured Species – Moose. *Wildlife Afield* 4: 285-317.

Connell, D. J., J. Smithers, and A. Joseph. 2008. Farmers' markets and the "good food" value chain: a preliminary study, *Local Environment*, Volume 13, Issue 3 April, pages 169 - 185.

Burton, P.J. 2008. The potential role of secondary structure in forest renewal after mountain pine beetle. *Canadian Silviculture* May 2008:26-29. Available on-line at <http://www.canadiansilviculture.com/summer%2008/structure.html>

ONE DAY COURSE OFFERING....

A one-day course is being offered June 17 by the Aleza Lake Research Forest with the assistance of the BC Ministry of Forests and Range, on how to identify ecosystems using the BC Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) system taught by Bruce Rogers, Assistant Ecologist, BC MOFR. Participants will receive some classroom instruction and lots of field-based training. This is an excellent opportunity for graduate students and faculty to learn the key steps in describing ecosystem in sufficient detail to classify their study sites.

The cost is \$50/person, covering transportation, and course materials. Please register by contacting Kathleen Olson (olson@unbc.ca) by **June 11**.

For more information please contact:
Melanie Karjala at (250) 960-6338 or karjal0@unbc.ca



TRAVEL

From May 6-14, 2008 **Chris Hawkins** travelled throughout Northern BC for research.

Scott Green travelled to Whitehorse, YK May 7 - 9, 2008 for research meetings

Keith Egger attended the 3rd International Conference on Polar & Alpine Microbiology in Banff, AB from May 11th-15th where he presented a paper entitled "Characterization of root-associated fungi from High Arctic tundra and similarity to Antarctic fungal communities" in a session on Polar and Alpine Mycology.

Phil Burton was in Montreal May 12-15 for a working meeting with collaborators on an SFM Network-funded project synthesizing similarities and differences in forest response to outbreaks of spruce budworm, forest tent caterpillar, and mountain pine beetle. For more information, see <http://www.er.ugam.ca/nobel/c3016/>. Some preliminary results will be showcased at the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America, being held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 3-8.

From May 19 - 22, **Dezene Huber** traveled to Whitehorse, Yukon, to attend the annual BCCAT Biology Curriculum Articulation Meeting at Yukon College. While the days were filled with long meetings in which we discussed minutiae of various Biology degrees at universities and colleges across BC and the Yukon, we were entertained one evening with a BBQ at the beautiful Yukon Wildlife Preserve (<http://www.yukonwildlife.ca/>). The menu for the evening was, appropriately, moose burgers. For photos of the Wildlife Preserve and Whitehorse, please see <http://tinyurl.com/3mbp3o>.

On May 23-24, 2008, **Chris Johnson** was doing field research at the John Prince Research Forest in Ft. St. James. May 28 **Chris** was doing field research at the Kennedy Siding near Mackenzie, BC and June 3 - 4, 2008 he will be in Yellowknife, NT for field research on the Bathurst caribou.

Paul Sanborn will be in Whitehorse June 1-8, 2008 to work with Yukon Geological Survey staff and grad student Lesley Dampier to plan Lesley's July field work. Lesley will be studying the relationship between soil genesis and glacial history in the central Yukon.

Mike Gillingham participated in the Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative Research Partnership meeting at UBC June 3, 2008.

Kathy Parker will be in Whitehorse on June 3-9, 2008 for research collaborations with the Yukon Department of Environment and to attend a Communications Workshop sponsored by Wildlife Conservation Society Canada.

Hugues Massicotte will be attending the Forestry Articulation Committee Meeting on behalf of ESM in Vancouver on June 3-4th.

Saphida Migabo will be attending a conference at the University of Toronto June 3 - 7, 2008

Oscar Garcia will be traveling invited by INRA to participate in the colloquium "Modélisation pour les Ressources Naturelles" in Montpellier, France, June 18-20, 2008 (http://www.montpellier.inra.fr/umr_asb/colloque/colloque-juin). He will also be a Guest Speaker at the 2008 World Conference on Natural Resource Modeling, Warsaw, Poland, June 15-18, 2008 (<http://rma2008.wl.sggw.pl>).

Mark Shrimpton will be attending the Late Run Sockeye Conference June 16-17, 2008

Chris Hawkins was in Halifax, NS May 24—27, 2008 for a presentation at the Administrative Sciences Association of Canada. Chris is also on the road June 3 - 5, 2008 for field site reconnaissance.

