



# NRES WEEKLY NEWS

## June 2005

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

### ANNOUNCEMENT

- At its June meeting, Senate approved the formation of the **Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute**. The purpose of the proposed NRES Institute is to facilitate innovative and interdisciplinary research on issues relating to natural resources and the environment. The primary goal is to integrate across perspectives to better understand the functions, viability, and values of natural resource systems. Continue to watch the newsletter for NRES Institute news.

### TEACHING AWARD

- Congratulations to **Patrick Montgomery** and **Alex Hawley** the two latest additions to the teaching excellence award recipients within the NRES membership.



Photo: M. Gillingham

### CONGRATULATIONS!

- Jeanne Robert**, MSc (NRES-Biology), was the recipient of the Governor General's Gold Medal this year. Jeanne did her M.Sc. on the effect of planting fault in lodgepole pine on susceptibility to attack by the Warren root collar weevil. She also spoke at the UNBC convocation on behalf of the graduating class. Jeanne is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at UBC under the supervision of Dr. Jörg Bohlmann. She is studying the molecular basis for defense in conifer trees.



Photo: M. Rutherford

### WELCOME

- Please extend congratulations to two Canada Research Chairs in the Ecosystem Science and Management program who will start their new appointments on Friday (1 July). **Dr. Dezene Huber** joins us from the University of California at Davis. Dezene is a bark beetle specialist, especially in the area of genetic interactions between beetles and trees. Drop by and say hi to Dezene in Rm 8-313. **Dr. Russell Dawson** is a current member of the ESM program. Russ is a bird ecologist who examines the fitness of various species in stressed and rapidly changing environments.
- Welcome to **Dr. Niklas Björklund**, who joined the lab of **Dr. Staffan Lindgren** as a post-doctoral fellow on June 2. Niklas received his Ph.D. in 2004 from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden, where he studied "Movement Behaviour and Resource Tracking in the Pine Weevil *Hylobius abietis*". He will primarily be involved in research on the mountain pine beetle while at UNBC. Niklas will be located in office 8-413.

- Congratulations to **Erin Sherry** and David Stuart on the safe arrival of their new son Henry, born on June 20th weighing in at 8 pounds, 12 ounces. We wish you all the best!



### APPOINTMENTS

- Tracy Summerville** was appointed to the Board of the Fraser Basin Council in September of 2004. If you have any questions about Council activities please feel free to contact her at 6637 or summervi@unbc.ca.
- Chris Johnson** was appointed to the Credentials Committee of the College of Applied Biology. Chris would be glad to talk with students interested in the process and qualifications necessary to become a Registered Professional Biologist in BC.

**PLEASE NOTE: The weekly newsletter will be published on a monthly basis in May, June, July and August.**

## TRAVEL



- **Art Fredeen, Rachel Botting** (M.Sc. candidate), **Jane Young, Laura Hoskin** (ugrad student), **Hugues Massicotte, Susan Robertson** (Ph.D. candidate) and **Linda Tackaberry** attended the Plant Canada meeting in Edmonton, AB, June 15-18.
  - ◆ Susan presented a talk (Does addition of crude oil to sub-boreal forest mini-ecosystems alter established ectomycorrhizal communities?)
  - ◆ Hugues was an invited participant to a roundtable on teaching botany (What do biology students need to know about Botany?).
  - ◆ Rachel won the best poster award for her poster (Patterns in terrestrial bryophyte and lichen species in young and old sub-boreal spruce forest).
  - ◆ Art presented a paper (Chasing the golden angle of needle trace-divergence in lodge-pole pine).
  - ◆ Laura presented a paper (The relationship among morphological and anatomical features and technical ethnobotanical uses of the common cattail (*Typha latifolia* L.)).
  - ◆ Jane presented a poster (Comparison of organic and inorganic nitrogen fertilizer on the morphology and anatomy of industrial fibre hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L.) grown in Northern British Columbia, Canada).
- **Ian Hartley** attended the Forest Products Society International Convention in Quebec City, June 18-23.
- **Kathy Lewis** and **Scott Green** attended the Dendrochronology Field Week in McCall, Idaho, June 24 - July 2.
- J.J. Clague and **Brian Menounos** presented the following invited talk at the *Canadian Quaternary Association 2005 Conference* at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, MB, June 5-8: "The last days of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet. Water, Ice, Land, and Life: The Quaternary Interface."
- **Greg Halseth, Neil Hanlon, and Deborah Thien** (post-doctoral fellow with Greg), along with researcher **Laura Ryser**, traveled May 30 - June 5 to the annual meeting of the *Canadian Association of Geographers* (CAG) at the University of Western Ontario in London, ON.
- **Chris Jackson** traveled with **Sophia Raby** (CURA researcher – BA GEOG 2004) and Bev Leon (Ti'azt'en Nation CURA coordinator) to Winnipeg, June 1-3, to participate in the first annual *Aboriginal*

*Education Research Forum: Shawane Dagoiwin* (which means being respectful, caring and having passion for Aboriginal research).

- **Greg Halseth** served as the keynote speaker at the 3rd Annual Rural Communities Summit on June 16th-18<sup>th</sup> in Merritt, BC (see: <http://www.bcruralsummit.ca/>).
- **Chris Johnson** was in Yellowknife to meet with the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency on June 13. IEMA recommends improvements to the land-use practices associated with the Diavik diamond mine and was interested in Chris' research on the cumulative effects of human activities on the distribution of barren-ground caribou.
- **Oscar Garcia** will attend the 2005 Western Mensurationists Conference in Hilo, Hawaii, July 4 - 7.
- **Paul Sanborn** will be leaving July 7th for 2 weeks of field research in the Dawson City area of the Yukon, in collaboration with the Yukon Geological Survey.

## WEBSITE CHANGE

- Please note that the Growth and Yield webpages are now located at: <http://forestgrowth.unbc.ca>.

## PUBLICATIONS

- **Thien, Deborah** (2005) "Recasting the pattern: Critical relations in gender and rurality" in *Critical Studies in Rural Gender Issues*, Jo Little and Carol Morris (eds.), pp. 75-89. Aldershot: Ashgate.
- **J.M. Arocena and P.M. Rutherford** (2005) Properties of hydrocarbon- and salt-contaminated flare pit soils in northeastern British Columbia (Canada). *Chemosphere* 60: 567-575
- Melody Hessing, Michael Howlett and **Tracy Summerville**. *Canadian Natural Resource and Environmental Policy*, 2nd ed.



## REMINDER

- Yes, Professors, SLI's, Teaching Assistants and Grad students, it's that time of the year again! **John** and **Steve** are asking you to get your requests in early, because if we need to have plants ready for you, we will either need to order the seeds or live plants now. Please fill out a request form at <http://csamlrs.unbc.ca/>. Remember to include your research or teaching project numbers, as we will be unable to fill the request unless valid numbers are included in the request. Also, put on the request what stage (flowering, just germinated, etc.) the plant should be in on which week/day so we can have it properly prepared for you.



**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 Lucille Guiney: [guineyl@unbc.ca](mailto:guineyl@unbc.ca)**