



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

March 10 - 14, 2008

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

COMING EVENTS

NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES



Dr. Stephen Déry

CRC - Northern Hydrometeorology & Environmental Science Program, UNBC

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIBOO ALPINE MESONET AND PRELIMINARY RESULT

Rising air temperatures have profoundly impacted British Columbia (BC) mountain ecosystems, including the Interior Wetbelt. This region supports the sole interior temperate rainforest, or perhaps more appropriately "snowforest", of North America. Relatively cool air temperatures, abundant precipitation (including snowfall) and heavy snowpacks qualitatively define its climate. However, quantification of its climate is not well known owing in part to the sparse observational network that currently exists in the region, particularly at higher elevations. This talk will describe the recent deployment of a mesoscale network (mesonet) of meteorological stations known as the Cariboo Alpine Mesonet (CAMnet) that greatly enhances the existing observational network, particularly at higher altitudes (>1.5km). Information on the location of the stations, data being collected and possible future expansion of the network will be discussed. Some preliminary results based on CAMnet data will be presented and the talk will end with a discussion of the possible ecohydrologic impacts of a changing climate in the Cariboo Mountains of BC.

Friday, March 7, 2008

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-150

Dr. J.D. McPhail

Professor Emeritus, Department of Zoology
University of British Columbia

The Freshwater Fishes of BC: Past and Present

Dr. Don McPhail, author of the recently published *"The Freshwater Fishes of BC"*, will discuss the origins and recent history of our fishes, the present state of the fauna, and its conservation status. He will look to the past, before glaciers 10,000 years ago, and to where we are now. The lecture will explain why all fish are important, from the smallest of minnows to the largest of salmon.

The freshwater fish fauna of British Columbia is not large; however, about 30% of our native fishes are found nowhere else in Canada, and a few are found nowhere else in the world.

Friday, March 14, 2008

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Note Room Change:
Lecture Theatre, 7-212

Meet & Greet with Dr. McPhail
4:30 - 5:30 pm, Canfor Wintergarden

Refreshments will be served

*This Colloquium is sponsored by the Peace/Williston
Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program*



COMING EVENTS

Chris Harris, well-known professional photographer and author, will be giving a talk and slideshow based on his latest book, *Spirit in the Grass: The Cariboo Chilcotin's Forgotten Landscape*.

Spirit in the Grass: The Cariboo Chilcotin's Forgotten Landscape

The Cariboo Chilcotin grasslands are one of the ecological wonders of the world. Grasslands occupy less than 1% of BC yet support over 30% of our most threatened or endangered species and over 40% of all our vascular plants. It is British Columbia's most endangered ecosystem. The goal of this book is to increase awareness of the incredible beauty and ecological richness of the grasslands. As stated in a July 2007 Canadian Geographic article on the book, "a hectare of prime uncultivated grasslands contains more flora and fauna than a hectare of any other ecosystem on the Planet". The photography is by Chris Harris and the natural and cultural history of the grasslands was written by leading ecologists, Ordell Steen and Kristi Iverson, and award winning BC writer and poet Harold Rhenisch. A percentage of book profits will be donated to the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC.

March 12, 2008 7:30 pm Canfor Theatre, UNBC

Advance tickets are \$10 and are available from Books & Company (1685 Third Avenue) Tickets will be \$12 at the door. Copies of Chris's books will be available for purchase at the presentation. For more information about Chris Harris, visit his web site at www.chrisharris.com

THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Damodar Khadka is a candidate for the degree:
**Master of Arts in Natural Resources and
Environmental Studies**

Mr. Khadka will be defending his thesis entitled:

**"COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN BIODIVERSITY
CONSERVATION IN NEPAL"**

March 14, 2008 at 11:00 am
Senate Chambers, Room 1079
UNBC Prince George Campus

Co-Supervisors: **Dr. Pamela Wright and Dr. Sanjay Nepal**

GLOBAL FRIDAY

Jacqueline Holler
History and Women's Studies

**"Colonial Entrepôt: Acapulco, Mexico in a
Globalizing World, 1580—1620"**

March 7, 2008
12:00-1:30pm
Room 6-305

PLANTALK SERIES HOSTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING PROGRAM

Gordon Harris will be presenting "UniverCity". Gordon Harris is President and CEO of SFU Community Trust. Under Gordon's leadership, SFU Community Trust continues the development of UniverCity, a sustainable urban community adjacent to Simon Fraser University's Burnaby Mountain campus.

Thursday, March 6th, 2008 at 7:00 pm in room 7-238

Background information:

Harris and his team are making significant and innovative contributions toward the creation of independent and universal green building standards, promoting complete communities, increasing transportation choices, and enhancing the overall quality of the urban environment. The team's work was recently recognized with a National Award of Excellence for innovations in green community planning by the American Planning Association. UnvierCity has received many other awards including the Urban Development Institute's 2007 Award of Excellence for innovation in creating a more livable and sustainable region.

Please join us for this presentation.

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

NRESI UPDATE

Thanks to Elissa and Brenda for their help in setting up the NRESI member photo board on the 2nd floor of the new lab building.

We are continuing to add current NRESI research projects to our spatial database, but if you have Google Earth on your computer you can view the locations for currently submitted projects at <http://www.unbc.ca/assets/nres/projects.kmz> (linked from the Overview and Research Pages on the NRESI website). We will continue to update this database so please bring new and existing research projects to our attention.

PUBLICATIONS

Owens, P.N., L.K. Deeks, G.A. Wood, M.J. Betson, E.I. Lord, and P.S. Davison. (2008) Distribution of phosphorus in soil profiles and its implication for model-based catchment-scale predictions of phosphorus delivery to surface waters. *Journal of Hydrology*, 350, 317-328.

C. Johnson and D. Seip. 2008. Relationship between resource selection, distribution, and abundance: a test with implications to theory and conservation. *Population Ecology*. Available on-line at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10144-008-0078-4>

WELCOME

Dr. Brian Pickles has arrived to start his post-doctoral fellowship funded by the Ministry of Forests and Range. Brian comes to us from the Macauley Institute of the University of Aberdeen, where he conducted research on the spatial distribution of mycorrhizal fungi. He will be working with Keith Egger's group. Please welcome Brian to UNBC. (His contact information will be made available as soon as he has been assigned an office.)

TRAVEL

Ken Otter is travelling March 5 - 10, 2008 to consult with a partner company on bird tracking radar development and also to attend the NSERC - Pacific reps meeting.