



## NRES WEEKLY NEWS

March 24 - 28, 2008

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

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### COMING EVENTS

#### NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

**BRIAN PICKLES**  
ESM, UNBC

**March 28, 2008**

#### **SPATIAL ECOLOGY OF SCOTS PINE ECTOMYCORRHIZAS**

Ectomycorrhizal (ECM) fungi are important components of forest ecosystems. ECM and their associated mycelial systems are the main organs of water and nutrient uptake for many forest trees. They are a major factor in carbon movement to the soil ecosystem, and important contributors to soil respiration. ECM fungal assemblages are species rich, and there is good reason to believe that their taxonomic diversity reflects important functional diversity. However, we know little about the way in which ectomycorrhizas formed by different ECM fungi are distributed below-ground. Such information is important if we are to understand how communities of ECM fungi are structured, whether spatial patterning exists, and if such patterns reflect the life history and growth form of ECM fungal species, their autecology, and possible interactions (e.g. facilitation, interference, resource competition). The work discussed here comprises a detailed examination of the spatial ecology of ECM fungi in a 120 year old Scots pine stand using a combination of morphological and molecular approaches, repeat sampling, and geostatistical analysis.

**Friday, March 28, 2008**

**3:30 - 4:30 pm**

**Lecture Theatre, 7-150**

Light refreshments will be served

#### **GLOBAL FRIDAYS**

**JOHN YOUNG**  
Political Science, UNBC

#### **RELIGIOUS PLURALISM AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN RUSSIA**

**Friday, March 28**  
12:00 - 1:30 pm  
Room 6-305

## PRESENTATION

Inge-Jean Mattson and Shannon Crowley (NRES Graduate Students) presented preliminary findings of their research on the ecology of fisher and otter, respectively, to participants at the annual meeting of the BC Trapper's Association.

## TRAVEL

**Kathy Parker** will be in Edmonton from March 26-30 to serve as the external examiner for a PhD defense at the University of Alberta and to discuss potential research collaborations.

## RESEARCH GRANTS

The following grant awards were recently announced:

**D. Heard, M. Gillingham,** and S. Wilson. Habitat Conservation Trust Fund: Mountain Goat/Helicopter Behavioural Research Project. 2008-2009: \$96,000.00.

**D. Heard,** and **M. Gillingham.** Forest Investment Account—Forest Science Program: Monitoring Caribou Mortality. 2008-2009: \$32,400.00



**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](mailto:zemplak@unbc.ca)**