

NRES WEEKLY NEWS

November 5 - 9, 2007

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. Youmin Tang

Associate Professor, Environmental Science & Engineering
Canada Research Chair, Climate Prediction and Predictability

.....**TOMORROW**

Decadal Variation of El Nino Predictability

FRIDAY, November 2, 2007

3:30—4:30 PM

LECTURE THEATRE 7-150

*****NEXT WEEK—
NOTE CHANGE OF DAY
& LOCATION**

Dr. Christian Messier

Professor Forest Ecology
Université du Québec à Montréal
Director, Centre of Forest Research (CEF/CFR)



Mechanisms of tree coexistence: shade tolerance, disturbance and/or chance?

Much research has been done on understanding how and why tree species co-exist in high numbers (up to 300 different species/ha in some tropical forests) and why seemingly similar species (maple vs. beech or hemlock vs. cedar) grow together when niche theory says that they should not.

In this talk, I will present recent findings regarding how :

- (1) the old niche theory and recent neutral theory can be reconciled to explain such high tree diversity;
- (2) tree size influences shade tolerance;
- (3) how gap theory and the low light survival/high light growth trade-off failed to explain coexistence of more than 2 tree species and;
- (4) what is the probable role of variability and stochastic in explaining tree coexistence.

I will conclude the talk by presenting some recent modeling approaches we are using to simulate tree growth and survival.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2007

3:30 - 4:30 pm

WELDWOOD THEATRE, ROOM 7-238

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: zemlak@unbc.ca**

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

COMING EVENTS

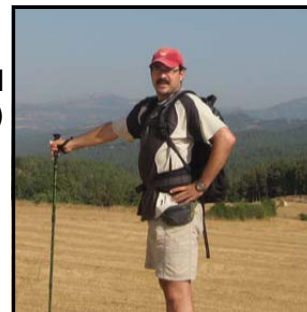
THE DOUG LITTLE MEMORIAL LECTURE

“The Decline of the Forestry Profession: Causes and Solutions?”

Public Lecture

Dr. Christian Messier

Professor of Forest Ecology, Université du Québec à Montréal
Director, Centre of Forest Research (CEF/CFR)



DATE: Thursday, November 8, 2007
TIME: 7:30 pm
PLACE: Room 6-213 Canfor Theatre,
UNBC Campus

*Sponsored by the ESM Program
College of Science and Management*

*Supported by an endowment from the former
Northwood Pulp and Timber Limited now Canfor*

SPEAKERS SERIES ON CONTEMPORARY GUATEMALA:

KILLING & COFFEE

This is an open invitation to all interested students, faculty members, staff, and community members to join us for the next two presentations in our exciting speakers series this semester focusing on the contemporary struggles of the post-conflict country of Guatemala. Issues of political violence & impunity shape much of the country's reality but many individuals and organizations are working for positive social change.

The Geography Program is partnering with Amnesty International Prince George for the next two presentations:

Thursday, November 8 @ 7:00pm, Room 7-150

Screening and discussion of the new documentary film “Killer’s Paradise” which focuses on the growing & high rate of murder of women (femicide) & broken judicial system which lets it happen.

Thursday, November 15th @ 7:00pm, Room 7-150

Public presentation by Leocadio Juracan - a Cakchiquel Maya from Sololá (near Lake Atitlan), Guatemala, and is national president of the Campesino Committee of the Highlands (CCDA) - an indigenous farmers' organization working on fair trade and organic coffee production. He is also a member of the executive of CNOG (Coordinadora Nacional Obrero Campesina) - the Guatemalan umbrella campesino coalition. Although Leocadio lives in a small Maya community, he has participated in a number of international activities and is well-versed in the plight of farmers around the world. He is a dynamic speaker and has attended both international conferences on the Plan Puebla Panama, so can speak with some authority on the threat that trade initiative poses to the environment and indigenous and campesino rights.

For more details on "Killer's Paradise" - visit the NFB site at:

<http://www.nfb.ca/webextension/killersparadise/index.php> and the BBC site at:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/this_world/4965786.stm

TRAVEL

Phil Burton is in Montreal Nov. 1 & 2 for a working meeting with collaborators on a nationwide research project funded by the Sustainable Forest Management Network. Researchers from five provinces are comparing notes on the response of forests to insect outbreaks, looking for similarities in forest dynamics after attack by spruce budworm, forest tent caterpillar, and mountain pine beetle.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Stephen Dery, Kara Przewczek and Tullia Upton visited College Heights Elementary to give grades 3 and 4 French immersion students an introduction to the weather. The activity included a description of clouds, their French translation, a bingo game and a presentation of some meteorological instruments.

Drs. Phil Burton and **Art Fredeen** made presentations and participated in a field tour highlighting several Mountain Beetle Projects on Oct. 30 at the Kennedy Siding area east of Mackenzie. Supported from multiple funding sources, research on the site is a collaboration of the Ministry of Forests and Range, UNBC, the Canadian Forest Service, and UBC. Dale Seip from the Northern Interior Forest Region is the tour organizer and participants in the day long field tour include B.C.'s Chief Forester, Jim Snetsinger. The Kennedy siding area is key habitat for mountain caribou and also a primary site for carbon flux measurements relating to the impact of the mountain pine beetle on the carbon balance of pine dominated stands, and is one of many sites being monitored for MPB impact on the regeneration and vegetation dynamics of such forests.