



## NRES WEEKLY NEWS

October 27 - 31, 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



***This FRIDAY***

**Dr. Shawn Marshall, Dept. of Geography, University of Calgary**

#### **Rising Tide: Historical & Future Sea Level Rise**

Climate warming is causing glaciers and ice sheets to ebb in most regions of the world, contributing to global sea level rise. The rate of sea level rise has doubled since 1993 and there are worrisome signs that the great ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica are now rumbling to life. The area of the Greenland ice sheet that experiences summertime melt has increased by more than 50% in the last two decades, with evidence that the meltwater is causing accelerated glacier flow and ice loss. Meanwhile, ocean warming is inducing acceleration and retreat of marine-based outlet glaciers around the world. The positive feedbacks associated with these changes could contribute to a sea level rise of as much as 1 m this century, which would be difficult and costly to remediate. Sea level rise is particularly threatening because of its impacts on low-lying developing countries. The World Bank estimates that a 1-m sea level rise would displace at least 56 million people worldwide, a crisis of environmental refugees without precedent, with increased flood risk to over 200 million people. Despite this importance, forecasts for sea-level rise are extremely uncertain. Recent changes in ice dynamics cannot yet be simulated by glaciological models, which do not capture the relevant fast-flow physics or three-way interactions with the ice sheet, ocean, and atmosphere. Current models offer insight into the stability of the polar ice sheets for a particular climate perturbation, but without all of the feedbacks and processes that are salient to predictions of how rapidly ice sheets can respond to climate forcing. I will discuss these uncertainties and provide a 'post-IPCC' view of what may be in store for global sea-level rise in the decades ahead.

*Light Refreshments will be Served*

**Friday, October 24, 2008**

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

**Lecture Theatre 7-212**



***Next FRIDAY***

**Craig Delong, Northern Interior Forest Region, Ministry of Forests and Range**

#### **The Effect of ecological forest gradients on macrolichens & bryophytes on coarse woody debris in central BC**

Coarse woody debris (CWD) in forests forms an important habitat for mosses, liverworts and lichens with many species restricted to CWD substrates. The influence of coarse woody debris characteristics on lichen and bryophyte species has not been well examined for sub boreal spruce forests in central BC. Wildlife tree patches are maintained on the landscape after clearcut logging with the intent of conserving wildlife habitat, however, the ability of these patches to maintain other species assemblages including lichen and bryophyte communities has not been well examined. With the rapid changes occurring to forests throughout BC through harvest, fire and insect damage it is imperative to understand the habitat requirements of these specialized species in order to take conservation efforts to reduce species loss.

*Light Refreshments will be Served*

**Friday, October 31, 2008**

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

**Lecture Theatre 7-212**

## OTHER COMING EVENTS

### THE DOUG LITTLE MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Dr. Winifred Kessler**

**Director of Wildlife, Fisheries, Ecology, Watershed & Subsistence Maintenance  
U. S. Forest Service, Alaska Region**

#### **Revisiting Forestry's Crystal Ball**

Shortly after moving to Prince George in 1993 as chair of UNBC's new Forestry Program, Wini Kessler was invited to speak on "What I See in Forestry's Crystal Ball". Among her broad predictions were:

- *The importance of products that come from forests will increase.*
- *Increasingly, forests will be valued for more than the sum of their products and uses.*
- *There will be better appreciation of forests as complex ecological systems that are controlled by forces bigger than we humans.*

Have these trends and predictions come to pass? On a general note they certainly have, and also in specific and hugely important ways that we had not imagined at the time. In this lecture Dr. Kessler will revisit forestry's crystal ball to discuss major developments of the past 15 years that are shaping the view of forestry's future.

**Thursday, November 20, 2008**

**7:30 pm**

**Lecture Theatre 7-238**

Sponsored by the ESM Program  
College of Science and Management

Sponsored by an endowment from the former  
Northwood Pulp and Timber Limited, now Canfor

## UNBC Fish & Wildlife Student Chapter of TWS Photo Contest

For their first fundraiser this year, the UNBC Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society is running a photography competition, with the top 13 photos to be included in the Student Chapter's 2009 calendar. The photo contest is open to everyone — you can enter a maximum of 3 wildlife/fish/nature 8x10 or 8x12 photos. (Entry fees are \$5 for the first photo and \$1 per additional photo for members, \$2 for nonmembers). Photos will be accepted up until the competition, which will be held during the week of November 3rd (probably Wednesday 5th). All entries will be displayed in the Wintergarden where everyone will have an opportunity to vote for their top 3 photos. There will be small prizes for the top judged photo and for the top photo chosen by the public. The calendar will then be assembled based upon the recommendation of the judging panel and the public's ranking. Calendars will be available for sale towards the end of the semester in plenty of time for those hard to buy for Christmas/Holiday gifts! For more details visit [tws.unbc.ca](http://tws.unbc.ca).

## CONFERENCES / TRAVEL

Oscar Garcia will attend the 2008 Southern Mensurationists Conference in St Augustine, Florida, 26-29 October. Quoting the Conference web site: "We are honored to have Oscar Garcia, FBRC/West Fraser Endowed Chair in Forest Growth and Yield, in the Forestry Program at the University of Northern British Columbia as a special guest for the conference. Dr. Garcia will give a talk entitled 'A simple and effective mortality model'."

**We're on the web at : [www.unbc.ca/nres/newsletter](http://www.unbc.ca/nres/newsletter)**

**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 MICHELLE KEEN: [keenm@unbc.ca](mailto:keenm@unbc.ca)**