# NRES WEEKLY NEWS
# May 2009

**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. Ron Stewart

**Professor and Head,**
**Department of Environment & Geography,**
**University of Manitoba**

### Extremes: Too Wet and Too Dry

This study examines some of the basics of precipitation extremes. Extremes such as too much or too little precipitation are inherent aspects of the climate system. On occasions, these two types of extremes can also occur in close proximity, spatially or temporally. Examples are given in this presentation using the recent drought that affected the Canadian Prairies as well as nearby regions including British Columbia. This drought was a multi-year event that brought enormous hardship and did not always illustrate some of the typical features of drought — such as hot and cloud-free conditions. As well, heavy precipitation sometimes occurred around the edge of this drought and on occasion passed over drought regions. We therefore need to consider two intertwined extremes of too dry and too wet. Given the general warming that is occurring and the effect of this on accelerating the hydrological cycle, it may be that such instances increase.

***Light Refreshments will be Served***

**Friday, May 8, 2009** **3:30 - 4:30 pm** **Lecture Theatre 7-238**

## CONGRATULATIONS

Genome Canada has just announced the results of their Competition in Applied Genomics Research in Bioproducts or Crops (see http://www.genomecanada.ca/en/about/news.aspx?i=330). **Dezene Huber**, **Brent Murray**, and **Brian Aukema** are part of a multi-institutional research team (including UNBC, UBC, U of A, the Natural Resources Canada Canadian Forest Service, and Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre) that was awarded nearly $8 million for continuing work on beetle, pine, and fungal physiological and ecological genomics as they relate to future lignocellulosic bioenergy supplies. The new funding will build on current work under the Tria Project that was funded by Genome BC and Genome Alberta. The portion of the new funding that will be received by UNBC will provide for the hiring and research activities of a number of post-doctoral associates and graduate students.

**Jane Young**, along with Co-PI, Leslie McCormick of Environmental Dynamics Inc., have received a grant from the Oil and Gas Commission in the amount of $167,258 over two years. The other partners of this project are Fort Nelson First Nation, Prophet River First Nation, and Encana. The project, "Communicating Traditional Knowledge: Fort Nelson First Nation and Prophet River First Nation", will involve working with Fort Nelson and Prophet River First Nations to preserve and perpetuate their Traditional Knowledge, and to aid in the protection of plant gathering sites when responding to resource development proposals.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Déry, S.J.**, Stahl, K., Moore, R.D., Whitfield, P.H., **Menounos, B.**, Burford, J.E. (2009) "Detection of runoff timing changes in pluvial, nival and glacial rivers of western Canada". *Water Resour. Res.* 45, W04426, doi: 10.1029/2008WR006975.

Wheatley, M., **Johnson, C**. (2009) "Factors limiting our understanding of ecological scale". *Ecological Compexity*. 6:150-159.

## TRAVEL

**Chris Johnson** attended the annual meeting of the US International Association of Landscape Ecology held in Snowbird Utah from April 12-16. As part of a symposium on expert knowledge Chris presented a paper titled "Developing "good" species distribution models for wildlife conservation and management - expert knowledge or empirical data?"

**Phil Burton** attended the Sustainable Forest Management Network's Fifth National Conference, "Envisioning Tomorrow's Forests," held in Gatineau, Quebec, April 21-23, 2009. He co-presented a summary of results from an SFMN-sponsored project led by Daniel Kneeshaw (Université du Québec à Montréal) on "Reducing Uncertainty in Forest Sustainability Caused by Insect Outbreaks." April 20th and 24th were spent in meetings at Natural Resources Canada headquarters in Ottawa, working to improve nationwide spatial databases of forest disturbances, and to plan climate change impacts and adaptation research.

UNBC was well represented at the Future Forest Ecosystems Science Council (FFESC) proposal development workshop held in Richmond, B.C., on April 29th. Present were Sybille Haeussler (FFESC research coordinator for UNBC); Professors **Darwyn Coxson**, **Chris Hawkins**, and **Paul Sanborn**; post-doc Brian Pickles, and Adjunct Professors **Phil Burton**, Craig DeLong, and **Doug Heard**. An initial 168 expressions of interest previously had been whittled down to 116 invitations to submit more detailed proposals for research funding.

**Paul Sanborn** and MSc. student Lesley Dampier will attend the Canadian Quaternary Association conference at Simon Fraser University, May 3-8, and will give the following oral and poster presentations:

- Lesley Dampier, **Paul Sanborn**, John J. Clague, Jeff Bond, and Scott Smith. Soil genesis in relation to glacial history, central Yukon. (poster)
- **Paul Sanborn** and A.J. Timothy Jull. The pedological record of loess deposition, fire, and slope processes, Kluane Lake, Yukon Territory. (poster)
- **Paul Sanborn**, Scott Smith, Alejandra Duk-Rodkin, David Huntley, and Jeff Bond. Soil and geomorphic evidence for a complex origin of the Nahanni karst landscape, Northwest Territories (oral)

## UPCOMING THESIS DEFENCE

**********

Mr. Tim Cudmore is a candidate for the degree:
**Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Forestry)**

Mr. Cudmore will be defending his thesis entitled:

"Geographic Variation in the Effect of Tree Diameter in Mountain Pine Beetle Productivity in Lodgepole Pine"

Supervisor: **Dr. Staffan Lindgren**

Date: May 12, 2009 Time: 1:00 pm Room: Senate Chambers, Room 1079
UNBC Prince George campus

**********

**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**