



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

February 6 - 10, 2012

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

For Elluminate information and link to the webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html



Feb. 10, 2012

Dr. Kevin Hutchings

Canada Research Chair in Literature, Culture and Environmental
Studies, Dept. of English, UNBC



Don't Call Me a Tree Hugger: The Social Semantics of a Stereotype

In this presentation I will discuss some of the central connotations of the term "tree hugger" as it has been used in academia, literature, and popular culture. Following an anecdotal introduction and a brief examination of the history of the term as it originated in India's Chipko movement, I will consider the representation of "tree huggers" in selected literary works, television shows and advertisements, bumper stickers and other cultural texts, paying particular attention to the way the term "tree hugger" encodes accusations of misanthropy, romantic anti-rationalism, and sexual deviance.

Friday, February 10, 2012

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-152

**Thursday
Feb. 16, 2012**

Dr. Brian Pickles

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, UBC-Okanagan



Tales from the underground: Mycorrhizas, migrating trees, and climate change

The idea of climate change conjures up images of polar bears on shrinking ice, rising sea levels and extreme weather events. These are all appropriate concerns in the short-term. However, over longer time-periods climate change will generate large shifts in the distribution of ecosystems, with trees migrating across continents. Even these responses to altered conditions are relatively easy to imagine, but when it comes to below-ground organisms, how do we make predictions about their future distributions?

From the fossil record we know that mycorrhizal symbioses, involving plants and fungi, have occurred since plants arrived on land. Mycorrhizal fungi colonise the roots of host plants, where they exchange nutrients for carbon and provide other important services such as protection from pathogens. It is estimated that over 90% of all plant species form these symbioses.

Environmental changes generate important ecological challenges for symbioses. Here I discuss the potential impacts of climate change on the ectomycorrhizal symbiosis, focusing on Interior Douglas-fir and its fungal partners, which is a vital part of Canada's temperate and boreal forest ecosystems.

Thursday, February 16, 2012

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: Weldwood Theatre (7-238)

NO COLLOQUIUM FEBRUARY 24th

READING WEEK BREAK

REMINDER: Share your information about recent publications, grants, and/or other honors you may have received with others interested in NRES issues.

PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: Michelle Keen: keenm@unbc.ca

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



Dr. Ted Binnema

Professor, Dept. of History, UNBC



**Do Salmon Eat Moose?
Reconstructing the BC Environment, 1806-1913**

Wildlife biologists increasingly understand that management decisions relating to dwindling mountain caribou herds in British Columbia, and woodland caribou herds throughout Canada's subarctic must take into consideration the historical relationships amongst caribou, moose, and wolves. I will argue that the research must be expanded across more trophic levels in an effort to reconstruct past environments more completely. Indeed, I will argue that the population levels of caribou cannot be understood unless salmon are considered. The presentation will be based on an analysis of historical documents, including unpublished documents of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Friday, March 2, 2012

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-152

ELSEWHERE

**GLOBAL FRIDAYS
SENATE CHAMBERS
12:00 - 1:30 pm**

**February 10, 2012
The Honourable Kevin Lynch**

"Productivity: The Great Economic and Social Imperative for Canada"

PUBLICATIONS

Bowler, R*, **Fredeen, A.L.**, Brown, M.G. and T.A. Black 2012 "Residual vegetation importance to net CO2 update in pine-dominated stands following mountain pine beetle attack in central British Columbia, Canada". *Forest Ecology and Management* 269: 82-91

* Rebecca Bowler (NRM Forestry & Wildlife and Fisheries Honour's degree 2010 graduate, UNBC) conducted much of this research for her NRES undergraduate thesis in Art Fredeen's lab at UNBC.

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PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: [Michelle Keen: keenm@unbc.ca](mailto:Keenm@unbc.ca)