



# NRES WEEKLY NEWS

## March 26 - 30, 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](http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html)



**Mar. 30, 2012**

## Dennis Horwood

### The Eelgrass Games. The reality of life and death along the sandy shores of Douglas Channel.



Since 2002, eelgrass sites have been investigated and subsequently mapped throughout the northern end of Douglas Channel. This presentation first aims to describe eelgrass as there is often confusion as to identifying the plant. Aspects of its biology such as habitat requirements and interdependency of many marine organisms will also be covered. Methods for mapping, laying a transect, plant density, and videography will be included featuring the site of the current LNG plant at Bish Bay.

Over a period of three years, a major transplant project was attempted in Minette Bay. An overview of how this was done, the results, and speculation as to its ultimate demise will be covered. In the last 25 years, eelgrass beds have apparently disappeared and a curious geographical distribution has been noted in the channel. These mysteries lay the groundwork for future eelgrass investigations.

**Friday, March 30, 2012**

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

**Room: 7-152**

### 2012 NRES-Related Undergraduate Thesis Presentations

The annual Undergrad Thesis presentations will be held on **Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>** from **1:00 - 3:00 pm** in **Senate Chambers**. This is a great opportunity to see what students have been doing for their thesis research. Each presentation will be approximately 15 minutes long with 5 minutes for questions. Coffee, tea, and pastries will be provided by the NRES Institute.

TIME	PRESENTER	THESIS TITLE	SUPERVISOR(S)	2ND READER
1:00-1:20	Luke Spooner	Determining the presence of postzygotic mating barriers and extra-pair paternity in <i>Dendroctonus ponderosa</i>	Brent Murray	Keith Egger
1:20-1:40	Kelly Hrywkiw	Spatial genetics of an alpine willow ( <i>Salix reticulata</i> ) in Northern BC	Brent Murray	Kathy Lewis
1:40-2:00	James Jones	Growth responses of <i>Drosera capensis</i> to low, medium and high applications of calcium chloride, magnesium chloride and potassium bicarbonate	Art Fredeen Hugues Massicotte	Jane Young

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

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



### GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

**Ms. Heather Klassen** is a candidate for the degree:

**Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Forestry)**

Ms. Klassen will be defending her thesis entitled:

“Potential Impacts of Climate Change in Dry Coastal Ecosystems of British Columbia”

Supervisor: **Dr. Phil Burton**

Date: **April 4, 2012** Time: 9:00 am Room: Senate Chambers

### GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

**Ms. Christina Tennant** is a candidate for the degree:

**Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography)**

Ms. Tennant will be defending her thesis entitled:

“Nine Decades of Glacier Change in the Canadian Rocky Mountains”

Supervisor: **Dr. Brian Menounos**

Date: **April 13, 2012** Time: 9:00 am Room: 6-205/211

### GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

**Ms. Elizabeth (Libby) Williamson** is a candidate for the degree:

**Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Biology)**

Ms. Williamson will be defending her thesis entitled:

“Impacts of Industrial Developments on the Distribution and Movement Ecology of Wolves (*Canis lupus*) and Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in the South Peace Region of British Columbia”

Supervisor: **Dr. Chris Johnson**

Date: **April 18, 2012** Time: 9:00 am Room: Senate Chambers

### PUBLICATIONS

**Hawkins, Christopher D.B.** and Amalesh Dhar 2012 “Spring bud phenology of 18 *Betula papyrifera* populations in British Columbia”. *Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research*  
doi: 10.1080/02827581.2012.671356

**Massicotte, H.B.**, Peterson, R.L., Melville, L.H. and D.L. Luoma 2012 “Biology of mycoheterotrophic and mixotrophic Plants” in *Biocomplexity of Plant-Fungal Interactions* (ed) D. Southworth (Wiley-Blackwell: Oxford, UK) pp 109-130 doi: 10.1002/9781118314364 (ch 5)

**Rea, R.V.** 2012 “Road Safety Implications of Moose Inhabiting an Urban-Rural Interface”. *Urban Habitats* 7  
8pp online access: [http://www.urbanhabitats.org/v07n01/moose\\_full.html](http://www.urbanhabitats.org/v07n01/moose_full.html)

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## TRAVEL / RESEARCH / CONFERENCES

**Stephen Déry** presented a talk entitled “Climate, snow and water: An overview of change in the Upper Fraser River Basin” at the University of Washington on 29 March. Stephen also participated in Mr. Xiaogang Shi’s general examination for his Ph.D. candidacy that day.

A poster presented at the Kelowna WDCAG by a 2012 UNBC Undergraduate Research Experience student: Roselyn Loerke:

Rose Loerke, **Ellen Petticrew**, Dominic Reiffarth and **Philip Owens**: “Methods for identifying suitable biomarkers for soil and sediment tracing using compound specific isotope analysis (CSIA)”. Western Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Kelowna, British Columbia.

**Paul Sanborn** gave an invited talk, entitled “The Dirty Time Machine: Soil Adventures in Northwestern Canada”, at the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford on 23 March. He also attended the annual workshop of the Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science at UBC on 24 March.

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