



## NRES WEEKLY NEWS

May 24 - June 4, 2010

A newsletter for faculty, staff and students  
who participate in the  
Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute  
and NRES Graduate Programs

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### GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

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Mr. Sean Haughian is a candidate for the degree:  
**Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies**

Mr. Haughian will be defending his thesis entitled:

“Understory Vegetation-Environment Relationships of Lichen-Rich Forests of North-Central British Columbia”

Supervisor: Dr. **Phil Burton**

Date: June 29, 2010

Time: 9:00 am

Room: 6-305 - Conference Centre

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### CONGRATULATIONS

to **Russ Dawson**, **Stephen Déry**, and **Dezene Huber** who had their Canada Research Chairs renewed for five years, effective July 1, 2010.

### TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / FIELD WORK

**Art Fredeen** attended the 25th Annual Meeting Joint Conference SPNHC & CBA-ABC in Ottawa June 1 - 5, and then moved on to University of Toronto for research June 5 - 13.

NRES PhD candidate Claudette Bois (supervisor: **Catherine Nolin**) presented her proposed research at the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers in Bogota, Colombia May 26 - 28. Her oral presentation was entitled: “An Examination of Canadian -Owned Mining Development Impacts on the Spiritual Land Values of the Maya-Q’eqchi in El Estor, Guatemala”.

MSc (Forestry) graduate student Laura Machial, working with **Brian Aukema** and **Staffan Lindgren**, travelled to the Swedish Agricultural University from May 15 - 25 to visit colleagues and learn how to apply harmonic radar technology to the tracking of root weevils. If you feel your molars tingling and feel an urge to nibble on pine bark, ask no questions.

NRES PhD candidate Title Kunkel (supervisors: Bob Ellis, **Ellen Petticrew**) presented a project report on Aboriginal Business Development Programs at the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education (CAUCE) conference at Fredericton, NB June 1 - 4. The project forms part of the Western Economic Diversification community adjustment fund project UNBC’s Continuing Studies Department is working on.

Sam Albers, MSc (Biology) graduate student and his supervisor **Ellen Petticrew** are attending the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, NM June 6 - 11. Sam is presenting the following paper: “Marine-derived nutrient transfer: changing biofilm abundance and composition in response to salmon spawning and die-off”.

## TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / FIELD WORK (cont'd)

**Phil Owens** and **Ellen Petticrew** will be attending the International Symposium on Sediment Dynamics for a Changing Future, Warsaw, Poland, June 14 - 18. They will present the following papers:

- Smith, T.A. and P.N. Owens. "Impact of land use activities on fine sediment-associated contaminants, Quesnel River basin, British Columbia, Canada".
- Petticrew, E.L. and S. Albers "The role of biofilms in retaining nutrients and sediment in gravel bed streams".

## PUBLICATIONS

Klingenberg, M.D., Bjorklund, N., and **B.H. Aukema** (2010) "Seeing the forest through the trees: Differential dispersal of *Hylobius warreni* within modified forest habitats". *Environmental Entomology* 39: 898-906

**Aukema, B.H.**, Powell, J.S., Clayton, M.K. and K.F. Ratta (2010) "Variation in complex semiochemical signals arising from insects and host plants". *Environmental Entomology* 39: 874-882

**Déry, S.J.**, Clifton, A., MacLeod, S., and M.J. Beedle (2010) "Blowing snow fluxes in the Cariboo Mountains of British Columbia, Canada". *Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine Research* 42(2): 188-197

Lenaerts, J.T.M., van den Broeke, M.R., **Déry, S.J.**, Konig-Langlo, G., Ettema, J., and P. Kuipers-Munneke (2010) "Modelling snowdrift sublimation on an Antarctic ice shelf". *The Cryosphere* 4: 179-190

Tong, J., **Déry, S.J.**, **Jackson, P.L.**, and C. Derksen (2010) "Snow distribution from SSM/I and its relationship to the hydroclimatology of the Mackenzie River Basin, Canada". *Adv. Water Resour.* 33: 667-677

Hu, Z. and **O. Garcia** (2010) "A height -growth and site-index model for interior spruce in the Sub-Boreal Spruce biogeoclimatic zone of British Columbia". *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 40(6): 1175-1183

Klingenberg, M.D., **Lindgren, B.S.**, **Gillingham, M.P.**, and **B. H. Aukema** (2010) "Management response to one insect pest may increase vulnerability to another". *Journal of Applied Ecology* 47: 566-574

(This work was recently featured in the Dispatch section of *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* published by the Ecological Society of America. A half-page write-up by Virginia Gewin [see <http://www.esajournals.org/doi/full/10.1890/1540-9295-8.4.172> and scroll down to "Axis of Weevil"] summarizes the novelty and importance of the research.) This is quite a feather in the cap of the CFS-UNBC research team, as this section of the magazine showcases only about a dozen research papers of the hundreds published every month on ecological and environmental topics.

**Opio, C.** (2010) Biological and physical characteristics of drinking water from wells in Kamdini Parish, Northern Uganda. Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute Research Extension Note No. 6 (Prince George, BC: University of Northern British Columbia)

**Owens, P.N.**, **Petticrew, E.L.**, and M. van der Perk (2010) "Sediment response to catchment disturbances". *Journal of Soils and Sediments* 10: 591-596

**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)**



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cover photo by Roy Rea

skunk cabbage taken at Aleza Lake Research Forest

On the cover is western or yellow skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*), also known as swamp lantern, a monocot found in wetland areas of the Pacific Northwest. Named for the skunky odor it emits, skunk cabbage uses its strong smell to attract scavenging flies and beetles that it seduces for pollinating. The flowers of the skunk cabbage are housed in a prominent cylindrical spadix that is ensheathed by a large, showy yellow spathe and are some of the first flowers to appear on the monochromatic spring landscape of northern British Columbia, where this photograph was taken. Skunk cabbage is the largest-leaved plant within its range, but this is not evident until well after the plant has flowered and gone to seed, after which it produces several leaves that can grow up to nearly 1.5 m tall and half as wide. These leaves were reportedly used by indigenous peoples for wrapping food and as drinking vessels, among other things. An interesting attribute of the skunk cabbage is its ability to produce heat that it can use to clear surrounding snow to get a jump-start on spring and to imitate the warm and rotting flesh of animals, which attracts pollinators. The photograph was taken near Prince George, BC, by Roy Rea (reav@unbc.ca), with a Canon 5D camera and Canon Zoom lens EF 24-105.



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