

COMPETITION AND COLLABORATION

ABSTRACT

When I began my career with the BC Forest Service, in the 1980s in Prince George, many of my research projects concerned competition between conifer crop seedlings and other plant species ('competing vegetation'). I was a partner in research trials looking at various methods – especially mechanical site preparation – for preparing sites for conifer regeneration, and for controlling this competing vegetation. Collaboration to study competition.

But even at the time, I was working with colleagues who were considering some of the potential positive influences of other plant (or even microbial) species on conifer survival and growth – projects such as white spruce regeneration under trembling aspen, and lodgepole pine growth with and without Sitka alder (whose roots host N-fixing bacteria).

My work in Prince George was primarily with plants. And for some in BC, I'm perhaps best known for co-writing a series of plant guides for western North America. But my MSc was in Mycology – the study of an arguably much more interesting Kingdom of organisms, the fungi. And so I gradually found my way back to my 'roots' – or hyphae – and became involved in projects studying forests and fungi. Fungi are interesting, and plants are interesting. But the various and diverse collaborations among plants and fungi are perhaps most interesting of all.

Andy MacKinnon, RPBio (ret.), RPF (ret.)

Forest Ecologist



Most of this talk will be about those collaborations – and how studying them, and learning about them, has ultimately and fundamentally transformed my understanding about how forests work. And perhaps taught me just a little bit about the benefits of collaboration.

BIOGRAPHY

Andy MacKinnon is a forest ecologist who lives in Metchosin BC. Since December 2014 he's also served as a Councillor in Metchosin, and in spring 2017 he was the provincial Green Party candidate in the riding of Esquimalt - Metchosin. He began his career in Prince George, where he worked as a research ecologist for the BC Forest Service from 1982-1988. Until his retirement in 2015, he worked for the BC Forest Service on-and-off for three decades, mostly on BC's coast, where he was responsible for ecosystem classification and mapping and a program of forest ecology research focused on old growth structure and composition, effects of climate change, and BC's native plants and fungi. Andy has also been involved in defining and implementing ecosystem-based management in Haida Gwaii and the Great Bear Rainforest. He has co-taught rainforest ecology field courses in Bamfield and Tofino (for the University of Victoria) and Haida Gwaii (for UBC). Andy is co-author of six best-selling books about plants of western North America. He's an Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University, and a (retired) Professional Forester and Professional Biologist in BC. Andy was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science degree by Simon Fraser University in 2013. He enjoys drinking good whisky and playing mandolin.

DATE: Thursday, November 23, 2017
TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: Prince George Campus, Canfor Theatre 6213
WEBCAST: unbc.ca/livestream

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The Doug Little Memorial Lecture



Doug Little
1928—1993

The Doug Little Memorial Lecture series was initiated by the faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) in the fall of 1996. This annual event commemorates the late J.D. Little, former Senior Vice-President Forest Operations, Northwood Pulp and Timber Limited.

Doug was a founding supporter of UNBC and a recipient in 1986 of the Distinguished Forester award from the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals. Doug Little's philosophy was that with appropriate forest management, the resources of the forest can be sustained for future generations.

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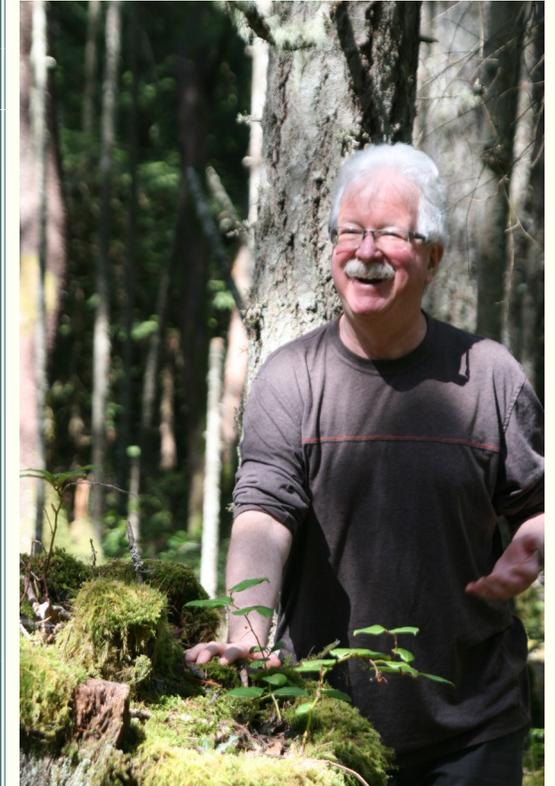
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