



NRESi WEEKLY NEWS

November 17 - 21, 2014

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

NRESi NOTES

FROM THE DIRECTOR & RESEARCH MANAGER

Hello everyone,

Congratulations to Dezene Huber who was awarded the honour of presenting 2014's Robert W. Tait Annual Lecture on "Implementing Teaching Excellence at UNBC"! This is awarded to an individual who shows educational leadership and innovations that enhance the learning experience of the student, in or out of the classroom. Watch for more details about the lecture in January.

In honour of the contributions Susan Stevenson made to NRESi, UNBC, and northern BC, NRESi has organized a scholarship in her memory. An information page has been added to NRESi's website (found [here](#)) or follow the steps below to contribute:

As its first project of this kind, the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi) is building a fund to support a scholarship in memory of wildlife ecologist and NRESi member Susan Stevenson. During a 35-year career built primarily in the BC central interior, Susan designed and implemented important research and inventory projects related to mountain caribou habitat, lichen biology, and silvicultural systems. She collaborated effectively with allied researchers in other domains of biology, forestry, and environmental science. She gave generously of her expertise to the next generation of scientists, by providing guest lectures, assisting at field schools, and serving on graduate advisory committees. Susan exemplified the Institute's values of interdisciplinary curiosity and unselfish collaboration, and enriched the lives of all those who worked and studied with her.

The Institute invites its members and the wider community to join it in supporting the Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund. Donations can be made through UNBC's Development Office:

1. Visit UNBC Development Office's website: www.unbc.ca/giving
2. Click on the grey **Make a Gift** button
3. Enter the information requested
4. When you reach the question of **Please direct my donation to:** select **Other**
5. **Important** - In the **Comments** area, add that you would like your gift to be contributed to the **Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund**

Leanne Elliott
NRESi Research Manager



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

PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: leanne.elliott@unbc.ca

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

Dr. Paul Sanborn

Associate Professor
Ecosystem Science and Management, University of Northern BC

**Fossil Soils and the Legacy of Ancient Warm Climates**

Fossilized ancient soils (paleosols) can be preserved in the geological record, and their properties provide important clues to past terrestrial environments. Rapid warming episodes earlier in Earth's history were likely triggered by disturbances to the carbon cycle, and are being studied for their relevance to current anthropogenic global warming. The most extreme of these events, the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM), occurred 56 million years ago, lasted 200,000 years, and involved an estimated global temperature increase of ~ 5-8°C. Although the record of the PETM has been documented most thoroughly for marine sediments, the morphology, geochemistry, and landscape settings of paleosols can tell us much about this extreme event. I'll give some examples of these interpretations, then speculate on the future of Earth's soil cover if the current interglacial is significantly prolonged by anthropogenic climate change.

Friday, NOV 21st, 2014**3:30 pm - 4:30 pm****Room: Weldwood Theatre (7-238)****To participate remotely: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html****THESIS DEFENSE NOTICE****GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE**

Mr. Aseem Sharma is a candidate for the degree:

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

Mr. Sharma will be defending his thesis entitled:

"Trends and Elevational Dependence of the Hydroclimatology of the Cariboo Mountains, British Columbia"

Supervisor: **Dr. Stephen Dery**

Date: **November 28, 2014** Time: 11:00am Room: Room 6-305 (PG Campus)

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OTHER UNBC EVENTS

GLOBAL FRIDAYS
NOTE ROOM CHANGE:
5-140D
12:00pm - 1:30pm

The Art of Making Sovereignty: Indigenous Arts and Title Claims in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand

Rocque Berthiaume
North West Community College
November 21, 2014

Global Friday presentations will be available to remote participants on Livestream:
www.unbc.ca/livestream

OTHER UNBC EVENTS

TERRACE LECTURE
SERIES
4837 Keith Avenue,
Terrace, BC
12:00pm - 1:00pm

Teaching Scientific Literacy for Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Dr. Alex Lautensach
UNBC Associate Professor, School of Education (NW Region)
December 3, 2014

This presentation will also be available to remote participants by following on [Livestream](#).

MEMBER ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST

Operation Whitebark: the whitebark pine assisted migration trial established in 2013 in the McBride Community Forest and led by **Sybille Haeussler**, Linda Tackaberry and **Hugues Massicotte** now has a YouTube video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZazATAyKPhE&list=UUmdw_kgoBgTsLzrSLcswyFw) prepared by enthusiastic treeplanter Darren Rockliffe. Survival of Linda's robust 5-year old whitebark pine seedlings (grown at the I.K. Barber Enhanced Forestry Lab in soils rich in mycorrhizal fungi) was 98% after one year.

IN THE NEWS

Doug Heard has been part of a caribou video trilogy about the populations in BC. Those of you who participated in NRESi's colloquium a few weeks ago will also recognize Helen Schwantje in the second video. Two have been released so far:

1. [The Boreal Caribou of BC](#)
2. [Southern Mountain Caribou of BC](#)

A couple of weeks ago I congratulated NRESi members who received tenure and promotion: Brian Menuounos, Mike Rutherford, Phil Owens, and Neil Hanlon. Check out the picture of all UNBC recipients [here](#).

Brian Menuounos contributes to a discussion about forecasted glacier lifespans. Read about it [here](#).

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IN THE NEWS (continued)

While not yet a member of NRESi, read an article about Dr. Che Elkin, UNBC's new chair of Mixedwood Ecology [here](#).

AWARDS

Neil Hanlon recently won a Healthier You Award for his ongoing research on topics related to community health.

PUBLICATIONS

Pitt C, Robert JA, Bonnett TR, Keeling CI, Bohlmann J, **Huber DPW** (2014) Proteomics indicators of the rapidly shifting physiology from whole mountain pine beetle, *Dendroctonus ponderosae* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), adults during early host colonization. PLoS ONE 9(10): e110673. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0110673. [Note: this publication is open access]

Witter, L, **C. Johnson**, and B. Croft. 2014 Weather-based indices of parasitic fly activity and abundance for the bathurst caribou post-calving and summer range: Users guide. Government of Northwest Territories Manuscript Report No. 246. Yellowknife, NWT.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

The poster features a blue background with a large white and red logo of a canoe with three figures, and a stylized white and grey eagle head. Below the logo, the text reads: "Pull Together Prince George" in a mix of bold and script fonts. Underneath, it says "a fundraiser for First Nation legal challenges against Enbridge Northern Gateway project www.pull-together.ca". The event date and location are highlighted in red and white: "THURSDAY December 4TH" and "PRINCE GEORGE NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE". Additional details include "DOORS 6:30, SHOW 7", "TIX \$10, AVAILABLE BOOKS AND COMPANY @ THE DOOR : 1600 3RD AVE". The bottom half of the poster shows a photograph of people in traditional Indigenous regalia on a boat on water, with the sun low on the horizon. Text below the photo says "With music by RAGHU LOKANATHAN & ERIKA CALLAWAERT" and "FEATURING LOCAL MUSICIANS". A small text block at the bottom of the photo area reads: "Citizens across BC are pulling together to help First Nations lawsuits stop the Enbridge Northern Gateway project. Every donation made before Dec. 31 is matched by an anonymous donor. Let's do this, PG!". At the very bottom, there are logos for "Sea to Sands Conservation Alliance" and "Gathering of Nations" with the tagline "SAVE THE FRASER" and "PROTECTING OUR WATERWAYS FROM 01".

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

Biological Science Technician (Genomics) GS-0404-09/10

The USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station is preparing to advertise a permanent, full-time position for a Biological Science Technician in Genomics, GS-0404-09/10 located at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Corvallis, OR.

Specialized experience or training in managing next-generation sequencing is required. This requirement can be satisfied by a combination education and experience, or graduate level education. Degrees in plant biology, forestry, agronomy, microbiology or a related field in biology and chemistry may be suitable. Other degrees may be considered if coursework is directly related to the position. To be creditable, coursework must provide the applicant with the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to do the work.

The Plant Genetics group studies the structure and function of molecular and adaptive variation in native forest species, and genetics issues associated with management of genetic resources and restoration. Studies range from genomic to quantitative and from individuals to populations and species. The incumbent will be responsible for overseeing laboratory operations for research on forest genomics.

Interested applicants must complete the attached form and return to Rich Cronn at rcronn@fs.fed.us by November 28, 2014. Those desiring further information about the position may inquire to Rich Cronn with the Genetics team at 541-750-7291 or rcronn@fs.fed.us.

Find all the details and application form at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/outernet/pnw/employment/index.shtml>

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS & STORIES

Do you have a favourite photo, story or update from your research that you would like to share with your fellow members and the broader NRESi community in the newsletter? Send them to Leanne to include in an upcoming edition!

COLLOQUIUM ARCHIVE

Did you miss a colloquium or special lecture? Visit NRESi's webcast archive to catch up! This can be found through the following link: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/colloquium-series/archived-colloquium-series>

ARCHIVE OF PAST EVENTS

Information, links, proceedings, and other information from past NRESi hosted and co-led events can be found at: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/special-events>. This site currently includes information about the Forest Tenure events (Annual Lecture and workshop) and a link to the Cumulative Effects Workshop site.

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