



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

January 27 - February 3, 2006

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

THE NRES / CSAM RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

*“Climatology of Winter Cold Spells in Relation
to Mountain Pine Beetle Outbreaks”*

Date: Friday, February 3, 2006

Time: 3:30 pm

Place: Room 6 - 205/211
(Conference Centre)



Dr. Kerstin Stahl
Post-Doctoral Fellow
Department of Geography
UBC

Light Refreshments served at 3:15 pm

WELCOME

- **Adrienne Labrosse and Philippe Thomas** have begun MSc studies with **Ken Otter** on movement patterns of birds around a proposed wind farm site in Chetwynd, BC. They begin field work this spring.
- Please welcome **Abbas Banej Shafiee** to NRES. Abbas is a PhD student at the Tarbiat Modarres University (Iran) and will be conducting experiments at UNBC, under the supervision of **Lito Arcena**, on the breakdown of soil minerals during forest fires as part of his doctoral research.
- **Angelique Roux and Thibault Grava**, two visiting MSc Students from Jean-Monnet University in St. Etienne, France, have arrived to work with **Ken Otter** on chickadee

research. They will be investigating the influence of food availability on singing behaviour and male condition in chickadees at the John Prince Research Forest.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Hansen, I.J., **Otter, K.A.** & van Oort, H. 2005. Communication breakdown? Habitat influences on the communication networks in black-capped chickadees. *Acta Ethologica* 8: 111-120.
- van Oort, H. & **Otter, K.A.** 2005. Natal nutrition and habitat selection among juvenile black-capped chickadees. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 83: 1495-1501.





TRAVEL

- Last week **Anne Hardy** traveled to Bella Coola to deliver a report based on research that she and Jovan Simic conducted this summer. Their research was on self drive visitors to the Bella Coola Region and they presented the findings to the tourism industry in Bella Coola. The research was jointly funded by BC Ferries, UNBC and the BC Real Estate Partnering Fund.
- **Kathy Lewis** is traveling to Kamloops to attend a Forest Appeals Commission hearing Jan. 31 to Feb. 3rd.

APPOINTMENT

- **Pam Wright** has been appointed by the Provincial Cabinet to serve as Lay Councilor to the Association of BC Forest Professionals starting February 2006.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute Annual Lecture and Graduate Symposium

- On Thursday, March 16th, the NRES Institute (with the support of the Canfor/Doug Little Endowment) will host the first NRESI Annual Lecture. As was the case with the Forest Sciences Lecture, which this series replaces, the talk will be preceded by a poster session, featuring research by NRES graduate students and NRES Institute members. There will be many invited guests from government, industry and the public at the March event.



If you are planning on presenting a poster, would you please let **Paula Poirier** (poirier@unbc.ca) know. Please contact me (michael@unbc.ca) if you have any questions.

At 7 pm, following the poster session and dinner, Dr. William Rees (UBC) will deliver his talk entitled "Let's Get Serious about Sustainability (or is it already too late?)".

THE AQUARIUM IS MOVING!

The invertebrates and fish on the third floor in the old lab building will soon be moved. The new location will be in the hall on the third floor in the new lab building. The tank is currently "cycling" to allow biological processes to stabilize before the animals are added. New organisms will be added as soon as the tank is fully functional. The new location will make the reef tank more accessible for students. Better equipment will hopefully mean that the inhabitants of the new tank will thrive for many years to come. The old tank will be discontinued.



PRESENTATIONS

The following people gave invited talks at the Northern Silviculture Committee meeting in Prince George on January 18.

- **Staffan Lindgren** - *Adding insult to injury: The Warren root collar weevil after the pine beetle.*
- **Angie Dale and Cedar Welsh** - *Climate and Outbreak History, and Pathogen Adaptation: Two Corners of the Forest Disease Triangle*
- **Craig DeLong** - *Managing Species Composition and Structure of Stands Across Landscapes.*
- **Michael Carlson** - *Genetic Selection for Western Gall Rust Tolerance in Lodgepole Pine: Mendel Would be Proud!*
- **Chris Hawkins** - (2 talks)
 - *Devastation of Young Pine Stands by MPB?*
 - *Effect of Broadleaf Competition on Conifers: The Good News?*

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

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

PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL to Lucille Guiney: guiney1@unbc.ca