

NRES WEEKLY NEWS

November 18 – November 25, 2005

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

THE NRES / CSAM RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

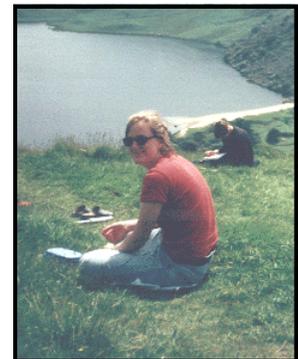
“Molecular approaches to microbial ecology:
application to grasslands in Ireland”

Date: Friday, November 25, 2005

Time: 3:30 pm

Place: Lecture Theatre 9 - 200
(Medical Building)

Light Refreshments served at 3:15 pm



Dr. Nabla Kennedy
Post - Doc,
Ecosystem Science and
Management- UNBC

Fish and Wildlife Club

The first Fish and Wildlife Club meeting will be on **Wednesday, 23 November**, at 7 pm in 8-261. The club is for anyone with fish and wildlife interests. Plans are for one event per month during the academic year, including featured speakers, outdoor activities, and club functions.

The first meeting will introduce the concept of the club, discuss what students can expect to get from being a member, and pose some potential projects/outings. The outdoor activities will allow students to get experience at doing different things (e.g. deer counts, browse transects, mist-netting birds). The Club is open to feedback and suggestions from all members.

Upcoming Events

4th Annual Teaching Lab Building Christmas Party!



Date: Friday, December 16,
3:30 pm

Location: 2nd Floor -
Lucille's Reception Area

Door Decorating Contest
Carol Singing
Good food and lots of
Christmas Spirit!!

(Please bring Christmas goodies, appies or munchies to share).

Prince George Northern Sustainable Landscaping Initiative



Active planting has wrapped up on the Prince George Northern Sustainable Landscaping Initiative, for which Co-PIs **Annie Booth and Eric Rapaport** are grateful. Over the growing season the project managed the following:

UNBC: The Bentley Centre Courtyard was re-designed into a more user friendly sustainable display garden, official opening to be announced (seating in the spring). The slope in front of the EFL was planted with a mix of sedums, evergreens and clematis to test soil stabilization. The construction fill site near the daycare was successfully re-vegetated from dead dirt with a mix of grasses (which will need re-seeding in the spring thanks to a student's vandalism), and trees donated by **Scott Green and Kathy Lewis**. The area around the Maintenance Shed was also planted with a mix of trees and ground covers. A swale and bog was created below the EFL to help control water runoff across the road (final planting next spring). A Botanical Reserve was established in the grounds across from the future Sports Centre and a Class 4 trail was constructed through a lovely piece of landscape. Interpretive signs will be forthcoming. And the front entrance sign was planted with perennials and bulbs donated by **John Orlowsky**.

University Way: A series of plots were established to test first how to kill grass (newspaper under anything worked like a charm) and was seeded this summer using four different mixes of grasses and forbs. Come spring we will observe their ability to survive natural conditions, road salt and public scrutiny.

Carrie Jane Grey/Massey Drive: More test plots similar to those on University Way. Along with Evergreen's Stewards in the City program, a class of school kids installed 50 trees and shrubs nearby. Money was received to start re-vegetating along the slopes of the outflow creek which runs into the Hudson Bay Slough; this will begin in spring.

Highway 97/John Hart Bridge: The slopes

leading to the bridge were planted with slope stabilizing plants, trees and evergreen bushes to study how well roots hold soil of steep slopes.

Prince George Regional Corrections

Centre: Trials have begun on 42 types of ground cover to determine their adaptability to Prince George's climate. Money was also received to begin work, in the spring, on an urban forest trial which will double as a garden for staff.

Ministry of Forests Building: We converted the grass median in front of the building and will be trialing different cultivars of kinnickinnick there come spring.

Moore's Meadow: We began mowing trials here to determine no-herbicide thistle control opportunities. This proved too labour intensive, so we will re-visit thistle control next year (I am holding out for donkeys).

Studio 2880: A display garden was begun at the rear of the studio. A trellis will be put up and clematis varieties trialed.

Lab trials: Under the astute guidance of **Jane Young** and **Mike Rutherford** salt tolerance studies were begun on day lilies and 4 cultivars of roses. Grass studies were undertaken at the Prince George Youth Custody Centre under guidance by **Eric Rapaport** and Terri McClymont (REAPS).

All of the labour was provided by two Research Assistants (**Bruce Muir and Ian Parker**) and a rotating cast of volunteers from the Prince George Regional Corrections Centre. As a result of supervision I have learned more creative ways of using popular curse words, how to hotwire a car, how to back down a skinhead biker, precision in giving directions, and a great deal of patience. I am told I can have a career in corrections should I choose to give up on the other institution on the hill.

Stay tuned for next year.



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