



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

January 14 - 18, 2013

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

COMING EVENTS

NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

For Elluminate information and link to the webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html



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Dr. Rosie Redfield

Professor, Department of Zoology, UBC



The origin(s) of life, social media and the #arseniclife debacle

The #arseniclife story started with a bang in late 2010, when NASA proudly announced the discovery that some bacteria could synthesize their DNA with arsenic in the backbone in place of phosphorus. But within a few days it all fell apart, as scientists used blogs and Twitter to conduct impromptu 'post-publication peer review'. ('#arseniclife' is the Twitter hashtag used to identify relevant tweets.) Working with collaborators at Princeton, my lab has now shown that the key results cannot be replicated. This debacle has implications for many aspects of science, from the origin of life to how personal biases and funding sources affect scientific judgement to the increasing roles of social media in both the practice and public communication of science.

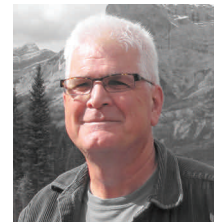
Friday, January 18, 2013

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: CANFOR Theatre

Dr. Brad Hawkes

Canadian Forest Service
Pacific Forestry Centre, Victoria, BC



Response of Southwest Yukon Forests to Spruce Beetle

In 2000 and 2002, monitoring plots were established within the area infested by the spruce beetle, *D. rufipennis*, in southwest Yukon by the Canadian Forest Service. The study objective was to document long-term changes in spruce mortality, stand dynamics, tree regeneration, surface vegetation response, and surface woody fuel load. A partial plot re-assessment was conducted in 2010 to determine stand condition, understorey and seedling density, and coarse woody debris mass. A sub-set of the re-assessed plots had spruce increment cores and basal sections collected to determine growth release of overstorey trees, as well as, understorey and seedling establishment dates. Preliminary results of the plot re-assessment will be presented.

Friday, January 25, 2013

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-158

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

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



COMING EVENTS — ELSEWHERE

GLOBAL FRIDAYS
ROOM 7-152
12:00 - 1:30 pm

January 18

Dr. Simon Springer, Department of Geography, University of Victoria

“Illegal evictions? Overwriting possession and orality with law’s violence in Cambodia”

All Global Friday presentations will be available to remote participants at: <http://bit.ly/unbc-globalfriday>

PUBLICATIONS

Lautensach, A. and S. Lautensach 2012 Why ‘Sustainable Development’ is Often Neither: A Constructive Critique. *Proceedings of the 2nd World Sustain. Forum, 1-30 November 2012*. (Sciforum Electronic Conferences Series) <http://www.sciforum.net/presentation/877>

Imhof, S., Massicotte, H.B., Melville, L.H. and R.L. Peterson 2013 Subterranean morphology and mycorrhizal structures in *Mycoheterotrophy—The biology of plants living on fungi* (ed) V.S.F.T. Merckx (New York: Springer-Verlag+Business Media) 157-214 (Chp. 4)

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PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: Michelle.Keen@unbc.ca