



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

February 9 - 13, 2009

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



Dave Tamblin
Regional Hydrogeologist, Ministry of Environment



Benita Kaytor
Project Ecologist, Ministry of Forests & Range

**Water quality & well construction in private wells:
Omineca Region**



The BC Ministry of Environment conducted an operational survey of 48 private wells in the northern interior region of BC in 2007. We compare the present state of drinking water from private wells in 5 priority aquifers in terms of two sets of variables: water quality and well construction. The objectives of the survey were two-fold: to obtain baseline data on private wells, which are often not studied because of the perceived greater importance of public water supply systems, and to gauge the effectiveness of the Ministry's Ground Water Protection Regulation, which specifies construction standards for new wells. Key findings include the following: approximately 18% of wells were found to contain some total coliform bacteria, but none contained the indicator of fecal contamination *E.coli*. Relatively few exceedances of Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines were found for metals, with the most prevalent parameters of concern being: Iron, Manganese, Turbidity, Hardness, and Arsenic. None of the well construction aspects regulated under the Ground Water Protection Regulation were found to have a statistically significant reduction on the incidence of total coliform bacteria, although the statistical power was low due to sample size limitations. A similar study is planned for the Peace Region of north-eastern BC pending funding approval in 2009-2010.

Light Refreshments will be Served

Friday, February 6, 2009

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre **7-238**

Next FRIDAY

Dr. Kishan R. Sambaraju

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Ecosystem Science & Mgmt Program, UNBC

**Studies on Behavioral Ecology & Reproductive Success of the Indianmeal
Moth, a Pest of Stored Foods**



Cereal grains such as wheat are typically stored in grain silos and large grain bins after harvest, and then eventually processed into finished products in food processing plants. These food storage ecosystems are inhabited by a variety of arthropod pests such as mites and insects, and among the insect pests, beetles and moths cause extensive qualitative and quantitative losses to stored food. The Indianmeal moth, *Plodia interpunctella* (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), is one of the most important moth pests infesting foods in storage. Larvae cause the most damage by feeding and spinning silken webs in the food whereas adult moths live to mate and lay eggs. Understanding the behavioral ecology of adult moths could help in developing safer pest management strategies in the future. In this seminar, I will present experimental procedures and outcomes of studies that were conducted to assess the behavioral responses of Indianmeal moth to several food media and to light, and provide a description of the female oviposition behavior.

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OTHER COMING EVENTS

Global Fridays
Senate Chambers
12:00—1:30 pm

February 6, 2009

Leonora C. Angeles, Assoc. Prof., Community & Regional Planning and Women's & Gender Studies, UBC

**From Community Service Learning to Public Pedagogy and Collective Action:
Sharpening Universities' Internationalization Mission for Participatory and Sustainable Development**

Complexity Science & Global Change Workshop — Smithers, BC

The Bulkley Valley Research Centre is hosting an informal workshop and discussion session on the application of Complexity Science to Global Change issues such as climate change and globalization. The workshop format will involve optional pre-reading, brief presentations by discussion leaders followed by question-answer and synthesis sessions. Discussion leaders will include: Sybille Haeussler (general concepts and application to climate change); Jim Pojar (genetic complexity); Richard Overstall (legal and cultural systems); Marie-Lou Le Francois (forest stand complexity), final speaker TBA.

All are welcome to attend and no preregistration required.

Time: **Friday, February 13, 2009 8:30 am—12:00 noon**
Location: **Old Church, Corner of King Street and 1st Avenue, Smithers, BC**
Cost: by donation to cover snacks and room rental

For more information please see www.bycentre.ca or contact Sybille Haeussler at haeussl@unbc.ca.

Persons seriously interested in attending please email Sybille so I can get an idea of numbers. And don't forget to bring your skis!

PUBLICATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

Barboza, P.S., **Parker, K.L.**, Hume, I.D. (2009) Integrative Wildlife Nutrition. (Springer-Verlag: Heidelberg) 342 pp.

CONFERENCES / TRAVEL

Tara Barrier (MSc Biology) and Leslie Witter (MSc Biology) (**supervisor: Chris Johnson**) will be in Yellowknife, NT, February 4-5 presenting preliminary findings of their research at workshops focused on wildlife monitoring and management of Bathurst caribou.

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

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

PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO MICHELLE KEEN: keenm@unbc.ca