



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

November 16 - 20, 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

This Friday

Dr. Scott M. Ramsay

Dept. of Biology, Wilfrid Laurier University

**Reproductive Ecology in Songbirds:
Does the Early Bird Get the Worm?**



In the 1950s and 1960s David Lack synthesized the knowledge of reproductive ecology of songbirds, primarily focusing on patterns that had been observed in long-term studies of titmice from England and the Netherlands. His key observations were that females who began laying earlier produced larger clutches, in years when the mean laying date of a population was earlier clutches were larger, mean clutch sizes increase with latitude, and females are capable of raising more offspring than they naturally produce. In my work on white-throated sparrows I am testing Lack's observations in white -throated sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) with an eye to addressing the factors that influence clutch initiation date and clutch size for females. As a variation on that theme, I have examined whether females are stimulated to lay earlier or larger clutches by the dawn singing of their partners. In the long-term I am hoping to determine how they may be affected by climate change.

Nov. 13, 2009

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-152

Dr. Kathy Lewis, Chair, Ecosystem Science and Management, UNBC

Red band needle blight: the canary in the forest health coal mine.

Nov. 20, 2009

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-152

Dave Tamblyn, Public Health Engineer, Northern Health

Groundwater at Risk of Containing Pathogens

Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009

11:30 am - 12:50 pm

Lecture Theatre 6-205

Dr. Darren Irwin, Dept. of Zoology, UBC

After the Ice: the western Canadian suture zone as a natural laboratory for the study of speciation

Nov. 27, 2009

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-152

Jocelyn Campbell, UBC / UNBC

Unfaithful fungi: lichens as a symbiosis?

Dec. 4, 2009

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-152

Unable to make it in person? Watch the colloquium at your desk!

For Elluminate information and link to the webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html
Log in as "Guest"

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

OTHER COMING EVENTS

The **UNBC Biology Club** is hosting a “**Saving Nemo**” night at the **Thirsty Moose** to raise desperately needed funds for the **salt water tank**. There is a trivia contest and prizes as well as drink specials. For those of you interested in attending, it will be on **Thursday, November 25th** from **7:00 - 11:00 pm**. Tickets are \$5. If you are unable to attend perhaps you would consider giving a \$5 donation towards the cause. To pick up a ticket or to give a donation you can drop by Jenia Blair's office (8-246).

THESIS DEFENCES

Ms. Prudence-Elise Breton is a candidate for the degree:
Master of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies

Ms. Breton will be defending her thesis entitled:

“Organizing for Sustainability at a Small Scale: A Case Study of an Ecovillage Experiment”

Supervisor: **Dr. David Connell**

Date: November 27, 2009

Time: 2:00 pm

Room: 1079, Senate Chambers
UNBC Prince George campus

Ms. Alyssa Shaw is a candidate for the degree:
Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Biology)

Ms. Shaw will be defending her thesis entitled:

“The Use of Platelet Monoamine Oxidase-B as a Biomarker for Mercury Neurotoxic Effects Among Inuit in Arctic Canada”

Supervisor: Dr. Laurie Chan

Date: November 27, 2009

Time: 3:00 pm

Room: 6-205, Conference Centre
UNBC Prince George campus

CONGRATULATIONS

Christine Creyke (MA NRES candidate, co-supervisors: **Gail Fondahl & Greg Halseth**) has won the J. Michael Waldram Memorial Model Forest Fellowship from the Canadian Institute of Forestry. This fellowship is awarded to one Aboriginal student per year nationwide.

PUBLICATIONS

Smith, C.A.S., **Sanborn, P.T.**, Bond, J.D., and G. Frank (2009) “Genesis of Turbic Cryosols on north -facing slopes in a dissected, unglaciated landscape, west-central Yukon Territory”. *Canadian Journal of Soil Science* 89: 611-622.

Sanborn, P.T., and R.P. Brockley (2009) “Decomposition of pure and mixed foliage litter in a young lodgepole pine — Sitka alder stand in the central interior of British Columbia”. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 39: 2257-2262.

Recent NRES Institute Research Extension Notes:

Stevenson, S.K and **D.S Coxson**. (2009) Effects of partial cutting on forage lichens for caribou in a subalpine forest: the Pinkerton Mountain Silvicultural Systems Trial revisited 10 years after harvesting. Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute Research Extension Note No. 3, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, B.C., Canada.

Stevenson, S.K and E. Phillips. (2009) Pre-harvest stand structure and wildlife habitat attributes at a group selection site in the Interior Cedar-Hemlock Zone. Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute Research Extension Note No. 4, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, B.C., Canada.

McKechnie, I.M., Burton, I.J. and **H.B. Massicotte** (2009) Propagation and fungal inoculation of black huckleberry and velvet-leaf blueberry: How can these species be used in ecological reclamation? Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute Research Extension Note No. 5, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, B.C., Canada.

All papers can be downloaded in pdf format from: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/research_extension_notes.html

CONFERENCES / TRAVEL

Chris Johnson was at the University of Quebec in Rimouski from November 3 - 8 meeting with colleagues and presenting a seminar on using expert knowledge to predict the distribution of animals.

Dr. Massicotte has been invited to give a lecture at Wilfrid Laurier University on November 13th, and one at the University of Guelph on November 16th. The title of both lectures is “Climatic shifts and symbioses: implications for the Blue-listed whitebark pine and myco-heterotrophic plants of western North America”.

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