



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

Oct. 25 - 29, 2010

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

James Gray-Donald

Associate VP Sustainability Leader, Sears Canada

Leadership for Change: Sears commits to becoming carbon neutral



Climate change poses a serious threat to the environment and human populations across the globe and is a serious business risk. As a large multi-channel retailer, Sears is committed to reducing its own carbon footprint, giving a preference to suppliers who do the same and educating the public to make better, climate-friendly choices. Life Cycle Assessments provide a useful approach to understanding the full impacts of our business. For example, for retailers such as Wal-Mart, Marks & Spencer, Canadian Tire and Sears, there are indications that only 10% of their carbon footprint is generated by internal operations. In the case of Sears Canada, most of our internal carbon footprint is generated from diesel for the SLH fleet, electricity, heating and cooling for stores and NLCs, and gasoline for the corporate fleet. The other 90% of the carbon footprint comes from the supply chain. This includes resource extraction, manufacturing, packaging, transportation, etc.

October 22, 2010

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-150

Next Friday

Dr. Steve Helle

Environmental Science Program, UNBC

Bioenergy for a Green University



As part of UNBC's bioenergy plans, a pellet system has been installed to provide heat to the I.K. Barber Enhanced Forestry Laboratory (EFL) and a biomass gasifier is being installed to provide heat to the main campus. The 400 KW pellet system has been in operation for over a year and is capable of supplying 100% of the EFL heat demand. The 4.4 MW biomass gasifier is designed to reduce natural gas consumption for campus heating by 80% and is scheduled to be in operation at the end of the year. Based on operational data from the pellet system, and technical specifications for the biomass gasifier, these systems will be discussed with respect to greenhouse gas emission reductions and air pollution emissions compared to the previous natural gas heating systems. To place these systems into context, an overview of bioenergy systems in general and in BC will be presented.

October 29, 2010

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-150

For Elluminate information and link to the webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html
For a list of upcoming seminars: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres/seminar/>

OTHER COMING EVENTS

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2010 COAST to COAST Canadian Seminar Series: The Marine Environment and Climate Change: Problems and Possible Solutions

November 2 — 11:30-12:20

A Sea of Change

Marlon Lewis, Dalhousie University, Department of Oceanography

UNBC will be receiving each seminar in high definition video in the Access Grid collaboration node room in Admin 2024.

The world's oceans are undergoing alterations not seen in hundreds of thousands of years. The surface ocean is warmer, more acidic and deeper reaches are increasingly deoxygenated. New evidence now indicates that the oceans have lost a significant portion of their phytoplankton over the last 50 years — the base of the marine food chain — and as well appear to support only 10% of the large predators active prior to the industrial age. These are not isolated changes, and appear to have some — albeit complex — common causes. This talk will focus on the scientific evidence to date, with a view towards what the future might bring.

<http://c2c.irmacs.sfu.ca/>

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Chris Harris — BC's Volcanic Plateau

BC photographer and author Chris Harris presents his new book, **Motherstone: British Columbia's Volcanic Plateau** on Wednesday, **November 3rd**, at **7:30 pm** in the **Canfor Theatre** at UNBC.

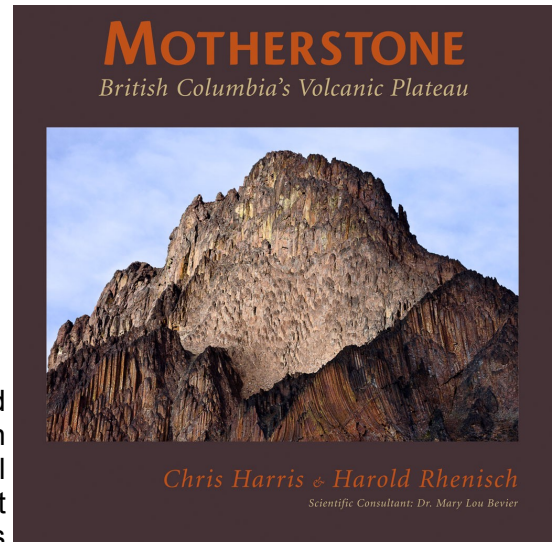
Tickets are available at Books & Co.

\$10 in advance or \$12 at the door

The event is **sponsored** by the

Prince George Photographic Society.

Chris Harris, acknowledged as one of Canada's most respected photographers, presents a stunning volcanic topography unknown and unseen by most British Columbians. Chris will share his visual journey of discovery with behind-the-image stories of adventure. It is with a sense of reverence that Chris presents these images. His hope is to bring conscious awareness to the imperative need to protect British Columbia's biodiversity and natural beauty.



Copies of both the limited numbered hardcover edition and the softcover edition will be available.

For information, phone 250-562-3717 or email pgphotoclubnews@uniserve.com. Check out Chris Harris' website at: <http://www.chrisharris.com>.

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PUBLICATIONS

Naderizadeh, Z., Khademi, H., and **J.M. Arocena** (2010) "Organic matter induced mineralogical changes in clay-sized phlogopite and muscovite in alfalfa rhizosphere". *Geoderma* 159:296–303

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

TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / FIELD WORK

Scott Green made a presentation at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Conference in Denver, CO 10-15 October.

Twenty PhD students and post-doctoral researchers from the Swedish Agricultural University (SLU) with participants from Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and China spent Oct 8-10 in Prince George as part of a silvicultural tour organized by Ken Day of UBC's Alex Fraser Research Forest. The group spent one day in the Salmon River and Summit Lake areas discussing lodgepole pine silvicultural challenges in a changing climate led by **Sybillie Haeussler** and local silviculturists Dale Likes (Canfor) and Peter Forsythe (Huckleberry Forestry) and one day at the Aleza Lake Research Forest led by **Mike Jull** and **Melanie Karjala**, and stopped at the Ancient Cedar Forest Trail on their way south. The group was particularly interested in forest biomass issues as European Union carbon policies have created new markets for these materials that are rapidly transforming European silvicultural practices.

Roy Rea was a guest speaker at the Integrated Vegetation Management Association of BCs Biannual Conference held in Kelowna 19-22 October.

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