



"Our environment is our future"

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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3:30 - 4:25

Weldwood Theater
7-238

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WHAT TO DO WHEN A GOOD MODEL GOES BAD?

We all construct models in our head that help us plan our day's routine...how long it will take to go to work, to prepare dinner, to watch a game of soccer. Occasionally sometime happens to upset our schedule, but that doesn't mean our model is wrong, as long as we have an explanation. Scientists construct models with a hope that they will apply universally. But even the best of these models occasionally fail. When good models fail, it's disappointing, but offers an opportunity to advance science. I will present three examples showing how advancement came from understanding the reason that good models failed. These examples include modeling transpiration, forest growth, and tree mortality from bark beetles.