

NRESi WEEKLY NEWS

March 19 - 20, 2015

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



NRESi NOTES

Hello everyone,

Happy first day of spring! With photos like the one to the right, we have proof that it is just around the corner!

Next Friday, March 27th, NRESi will be presenting a special lecture in partnership with the Peace Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program. Join us at 3:30pm in the Weldwood Theatre (7-238) or via [webcast](#) (Livestream or Collaborate) for a lecture presented by Dale Seip titled: Ongoing Declines of Caribou Populations in British Columbia and the Challenges of Caribou Recovery. A reception will follow the presentation. All are welcome to attend!

Watch for further details about other upcoming NRESi events next week.

Congratulations to NRESi member Doug Heard for receiving the inaugural Ian McTaggart-Cowan Lifetime Achievement Award! The below was sent from Mike Gillingham describing the award and Doug's accomplishments leading him to being this year's recipient:

Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan's life (1910-2010) was filled with many impressive achievements.

He was a founding member of the Nature Trust of BC, an assistant curator and biologist at the Royal BC Museum, professor and department head of Zoology at UBC and a renowned ornithologist and mammalogist. Perhaps one of his most significant accomplishments, however, was the impressive imprint he left on the colleagues, students and conservationists who continue to carry his passions forward. It was in this spirit that the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society created the **Ian McTaggart-Cowan Lifetime Achievement Award**, an award that recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the wildlife profession in Canada.



Doug Heard is this year's Ian McTaggart-Cowan Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. Photo submitted by Mike Gillingham

The inaugural Ian McTaggart-Cowan Lifetime Achievement Award was recently awarded to **Doug Heard** (fittingly one of Dr. Cowan's students). Doug's contributions to wildlife biology, conservation, and management in the Northwest Territories and BC are many, but this award also recognized Doug's role as a mentor. Doug has actively contributed to mentorship and education of UNBC's graduate and undergraduate students for the last 20 years – he has served on the graduate committees of 13 MSc and 3 PhD students at UNBC alone. Doug's nearly 60 peer-reviewed articles and over 70 technical or other professional reports are testament to his view that if work is worth doing, it should be made available for others to benefit from. We would like to extend our heart-felt congratulations to Doug and look forward to future collaborations (following his imminent retirement)!

Leanne Elliott, NRESi Research Manager

FROM THE DIRECTOR & RESEARCH MANAGER



Mountain alder (*Alnus tenuifolia*) is ready for pollination! Hugues described this photo taken a few weeks ago by saying the male cones (largest structures) are almost mature and ready to shed their pollen and the female cones (smaller in groups of 4-5, just above) are almost ready, too. Photo credit: Hugues Massicotte

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

PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: leanne.elliott@unbc.ca

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

COMING EVENTS

NRESi SPECIAL LECTURE

Peace Fish and Wildlife
Compensation Program Presents:



Dr. Dale Seip
B.C. Ministry of Environment



Ongoing Declines of Caribou Populations in British Columbia and the Challenges of Caribou Recovery

Woodland caribou populations across much of British Columbia are declining. Research and monitoring has shown that the primary cause of decline is excessive predation by wolves, bears and cougars. Although caribou populations co-existed with natural predators for thousands of years in the past, today those same predators are driving caribou to extinction. It appears that habitat changes due to industrial activities, and likely exacerbated by climate change, have created a landscape where caribou cannot co-exist with natural predators. Creation of early seral habitat by forestry and other industrial activities can enhance numbers of moose, elk and deer, leading to an increase in the distribution and abundance of wolves, bears and cougars on caribou range. Several studies have shown declining caribou numbers are associated with increased amounts of industrial activity on their range. Although protecting and recovering habitat is the ultimate solution to recovering caribou populations it would take decades for habitat recovery to occur. In the short term, directly managing the predator prey system with predator control, moose management or captive rearing is likely necessary to prevent ongoing declines and local extirpation of caribou herds.

Friday, MARCH 27th, 2015

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

RECEPTION to FOLLOW

Room: Weldwood Theatre (7-238)

To participate remotely: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html

OTHER UNBC EVENTS

**TERRACE LECTURE
SERIES
4837 Keith Avenue
Terrace, BC
12:00pm - 1:00pm**

Monitoring for Amphibians in Northwest British Columbia

Dr. Norma Kerby
Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Since 2011, volunteers with the NWBC Reptile and Amphibian Monitoring Program have been monitoring amphibians from Dease Lake to Fort St. James, and along Highway 16 to Prince Rupert and Kitimat. Over the last five years, interesting trends in amphibian distributions have been recorded in this successful citizen science program. Surprising aspects of the ecology of northern amphibians have important ramifications in the management of amphibian habitats.

This presentation will also be available to remote participants by following on [Livestream](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Fraser R. McKee, **Dezene P.W. Huber**, **B. Staffan Lindgren**, Robert S. Hodgkinson and Brian H. Aukema (2015). Effect of natal and colonised host species on female host acceptance and male joining behaviour of the mountain pine beetle (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) using pine and spruce. *The Canadian Entomologist*, 147, pp 39-45. doi:10.4039/tce.2014.22.

Rasouli, K., Hernandez-Henriquez, M. A., and **Déry, S. J.**, 2015: Reply to D. L. Peters' comment on 'Streamflow input to Lake Athabasca, Canada', *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, 19, 1287-1292.

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EVENT OF INTEREST

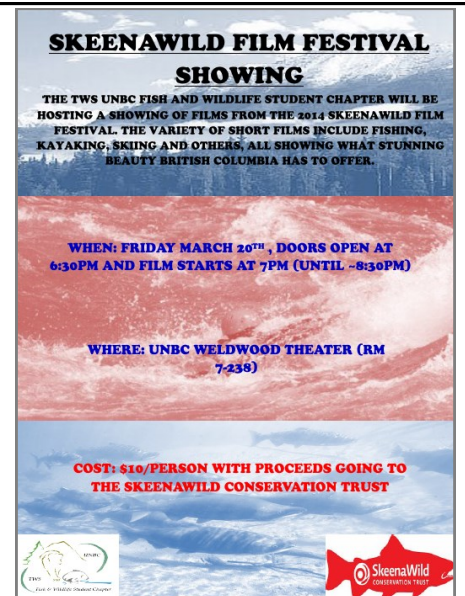
On Friday, March 20th, TWS UNBC Fish and Wildlife Student Chapter will be hosting a showing of films from the 2014 SkeenaWild Film Fest. Doors open at 6:30pm and the film will start at 7pm in UNBC's Weldwood Theatre.

Videos will have themes including:

- Fishing,
- Wildlife,
- Conservation,
- Kayaking,
- Skiing, and more!

Watch the Film Fest's trailer [here](#).

The cost is \$10/person and the proceeds will go to the SkeenaWild Conservation Trust. Tickets will be sold at the door and there will also be door prizes!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Cell & Molecular Biology Interest Group (CMBIG) will be hosting another lecture before the end of the semester. Mark Monday, April 13th in your calendars to participate in Dr. Sharon Aviran's talk. Dr. Aviran is visiting UNBC from UC Davis. This will take place at 11:30 in 7-150.

NEW OPPORUNITY WITH MITACS

Mitacs has announced funding for collaborative research with not-for-profit (NFP) organizations.

Eligible NFP partners can include:

- Industry associations
- Economic development organizations
- Charitable organizations

An NFP partner can participate if its proposed project has a demonstrable economic or productivity orientation, such as:

- Creating new jobs
- Reducing costs of goods or services
- Increasing productivity in a process or industry

Contact a [Mitacs representative](#) to learn if your NFP partner is eligible or get your application started.

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SUSAN STEVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

As its first project of this kind, the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi) is building a fund to support a scholarship in memory of wildlife ecologist and NRESi member Susan Stevenson. During a 35-year career built primarily in the BC central interior, Susan designed and implemented important research and inventory projects related to mountain caribou habitat, lichen biology, and silvicultural systems, collaborating with a diverse range of researchers, and gave generously of her expertise to the next generation of scientists. Susan exemplified the Institute's values of interdisciplinary curiosity and unselfish collaboration, and enriched the lives of all those who worked and studied with her. The Institute invites you to join it in supporting the Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund:

1. Visit UNBC Development Office's website: www.unbc.ca/giving
2. Click on the grey **Make a Gift** button
3. Enter the information requested
4. When you reach the question of **Please direct my donation to:** select **Other**
5. **Important** - In the **Comments** area, add that you would like your gift to be contributed to the **Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund**

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS & STORIES

Do you have a favourite photo, story or update from your research that you would like to share with your fellow members and the broader NRESi community in the newsletter? Send them to Leanne to include in an upcoming edition!

COLLOQUIUM ARCHIVE

Did you miss a colloquium or special lecture? Visit NRESi's webcast archive to catch up! This can be found through the following link: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/colloquium-series/archived-colloquium-series>

ARCHIVE OF PAST EVENTS

Information, links, proceedings, and other information from past NRESi hosted and co-led events can be found at: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/special-events>. This site currently includes information about the Forest Tenure events (Annual Lecture and workshop) and a link to the Cumulative Effects Workshop site.

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