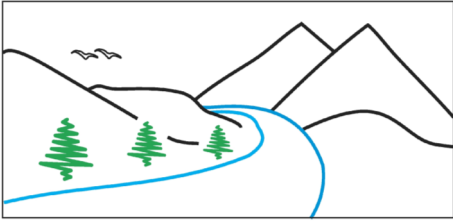


N R E S i



"Our environment is our future"

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Rob Higgins

Asst. Professor, Thompson Rivers University
PhD Candidate, UNBC



Friday

Nov. 6. 2009

3:30 - 4:30

LECTURE THEATRE

7 - 152

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
SERVED AT 3:20 PM

The Ants of British Columbia

Ants are a common element in our urban landscapes but are usually overlooked, literally, or considered only in the context of a household nuisance. Their presence in our urban lives, however, does not properly reflect their broader ecological significance. In British Columbia, ants are an important food source for vertebrates ranging from birds to bears. Their social organization has given rise to behavioural systems that include the ranching of aphids, a form of agriculture that can have complex effects upon the trees they consider to be their rangeland. It has also given rise to remarkable forms of slavery and parasitism within the taxon. To thrive, however, ants require heat, and the climate of BC can be challenging. Here I will consider some of my work on the ants of British Columbia over the past several years, their ecological roles, and their adaptations to surviving in our cool climate.