

Forestry Matters

A root, a stem, a leaf, some means of capturing sunlight and air and making food—in sum, a plant. The green substance of this earth, the chlorophyll, is all summed up in the plants. Without them we perish, all of us who are flesh and blood.

-Hal Borland (1900-1978), *Our Natural World*, 1969

December 2010



Dates to Remember

Dec 22-Jan 3 **University is closed**

Jan 3 **Most graduate courses and seminars begin the week of January 3.**

March 4-6 **North Bay Field Trip**

Alumni Corner

In Memory:

Bill Fullerton (Forestry, BScF, 5T5)
Grant L. Puttock (BScF, 4T7)



The Winter Solstice Tree

by Paul Aird

The winter solstice is the time when the sun is at its lowest point on the horizon -- when the day length is at a minimum and the night length is at a maximum. In the northern hemisphere, it occurs this year on December 21 when the sun reaches its most southern point in the sky. It is a time of celebration.

The period about the winter solstice has been celebrated for centuries. It appears to have been recognized as the time of awakening of growing things.

The Druids hung apples on oak trees to celebrate the winter solstice. The Roman Fauni, spirits of the countryside, evolved into Faunus, the Roman god of nature. A festival was held early in December to worship him as the guardian of crops and herds. A festival to honour Saturn, the Roman god of agriculture, was celebrated after mid-December by the trimming of evergreen trees with trinkets.

This time of merry-making and gift-giving was changed to the first day of the new year, which later became the traditional Christmas celebration.

According to the Christmas Tree Farmers of Ontario, Canada's first Christmas tree was decorated in 1781 in Sorel, Quebec, by Baron and Baroness Friederik von Riedesel. The custom has since spread through the land as a symbol of hope and goodwill.

Fir, pine and spruce trees are now commonly decorated to celebrate the winter solstice or Christmas season. Other species may be used as well, including cedar, apple, and hawthorn.

Christmas trees may be harvested from natural forest stands or from plantations. In either case, they are a renewable crop. Artificial trees made of metal or plastic are non-renewable, and lack the beauty and aroma of natural trees. And after the solstice season is over, the natural tree may be burned as fuel or used as a mulch in the garden.

Canada's literature, art, sculpture, poetry, theatre and music use products of the forest to extol the virtues of the forest.

Remember When?

I am sure most of you recognize Johnny "Canuck" McCarron and myself (Ian Kennedy). The middle guy is Dr. Ed Bevilacqua, former PhD student and part time lecturer here at the Faculty. This photo was taken at Petawawa National Forestry Institute during spring camp many years ago.



Forestry and People

A walk in the “Green”

Visit by Institute of Child Studies lab school Grade 2 children written by: Mandan Fazl

On Monday, October 18th, second grade students from the UofT Institute of Child Studies Lab School visited the Faculty of Forestry, hosted by Professor Ning Yan and members of her research group. The purpose of the visit was to know more about the forest and start a discussion about sustainability.

The visit included a tour of our very own urban forest, kindly guided by Professor Andy Keeney, who engaged the students in a discussion about the various types of trees found there, as well as the anatomy and function of trees. The young students' enthusiasm and knowledge about nature was quite impressive and their eagerness to learn was not phased, even with the cool weather.



Furthermore, the students were taken on a tour of the EEB's teaching green house where they were introduced to plants from all over the planet with the kind help of Bruce Hall and Andrew Petrie. The tour showcased the various habitats and the growing conditions required by different plants. The highlight of the tour was when the students were introduced to the resident critters that make their home in the green house, including a spunky turtle who demonstrated her diving skills and a pair of lizards that, unlike the children,

showed an unprecedented ability to sit still throughout the entire presentation.

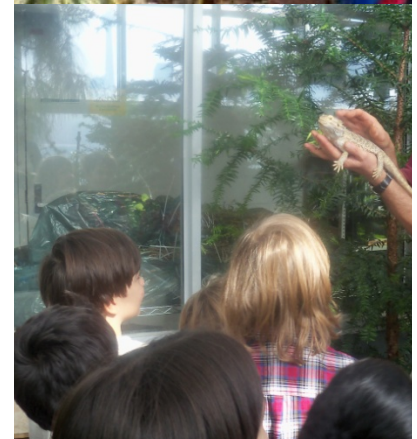


In addition to the tours, a “science classroom” was set up for the children, with various specimens and displays related to forests and sustainable forest products. These included preserved forest animals and insects (from Prof. Jay Malcolm and Prof. Sandy Smith and her group), microscope slides of plant cells (from Prof. Cooper's group), and samples of bio-materials, including natural fibres and composites (from Prof. Yan and Prof. Sain's group).

Finally, Professor Yan's presentation exposed the young students to the idea of sustainability and the use of renewable resources. Throughout the presentation, the students were encouraged to think critically about how we use natural resources in our everyday life. When asked whether we're free to cut down trees any way we please, some of their answers included “Only if we need to make houses to live in” and “Only if we plant more trees to replace them.” From their answers, it was obvious that they have some ideas about using resources responsibly. In addition, the idea of sustainability was further cultivated in these young minds by introducing them to a host of new

materials being developed from natural fibres and wood components, such as natural fibre reinforced composite materials, as well as foams derived from tree bark.

Overall, the visit was a great success and it was memorable for both the children and the adults who participated. It was a great opportunity for the research community to reach out to the younger generation, not only to educate, but also to inspire them to think about the world around them in a new light.



Forestry open mic night a re sounding success

"I dig.....music" - Russell Hammond

Following a long tradition (Canadian standards) of great live music and good times, the IVth annual Forestry Open Mic Night went off a few Fridays ago to general acclaim. The event started sharply around 6ish with the dulcet tones of the Bug Lab's own Lucas Roscoe on bagpipes, calling all wayward graduate students to leave behind their dreary



papers and relax next door in the comfort of Sylvester's Cafe. Those of us who were present in the foyer of the faculty building to experience the acoustic resonance of the Hills of Glenochgarry in an all-concrete environment are not likely to soon forget the experience.

The evening got off to a rocking start with several favourites by Prof. Sean Thomas,



including a crowd-pleasing expose of hostile myth-cooption by the Anglican Church. This strong start was kept rolling by an enigmatic arrival up the firescape around 6:30 pm. Revealing herself to be none other than second act Anna Mernicks, this late-comer captivated the house with covers, original songs, and some back-talk to a cellphone-using audience member. The authors of this article aren't actually sure if Anna is in Forestry, but if she isn't we're going to try and talk her into it.

Third up came new MFC Reggie Kruse (& friends). Weilding a musical arsenal including a djembe, two guitars and a ukelele, these girls brought us a cover or two and several new songs. Touching lyrics and three-part vocal harmonies stood out. The ying to this yang was new arrival John Barker, bringing out blues classics in dyed in the wool fashion. By around 8 p.m. John was wrapping up and the stage was given up to former MFC Dave Andrews & friend - friend not arriving, Dave opted to delight the crowd with a lyrical voyage of discovery into the darker side of Japanese sexuality (among other less memorable topics). Fortunately the beer was flowing by the time these songs came up and Dave's oeuvre was voted 'hilarious' over 'wildly repulsive'- a characterization we heartily endorse. These authors look forwards to finding Dave's work in the back left corner of Suspect Video any day now.

The hour was getting on, and barring a minor delay in which Ben Kuttner kindly optimized the sound system for low-fuzz performance, leading to several acoustic sets, Prof. Paul Cooper took the stage. Singing songs he sings to his grandchildren over classic five-string banjo picking patterns Prof. Cooper held the room enthralled. Nothing



less than Ben could break the spell and break it he did, captivating the room with classic rock and folk covers and bringing a wailing blues harmonica and Djembe onto the stage.

The scheduled portion of the night being over, an anarchic microphone state was declared and several lurking talents came

forwards to take the stage. Notable among these were John Schurman and 'Charlie', an enigmatic east coaster who legitimately has no association with the Faculty whatsoever. A couple of his originals made us wish he did. The evening ran on with beer, jamming, and general merriment, with a despicable 1/3 of these authors flaking to Queen West around 11 to avoid cleanup. The party broke up around 1 when Sylvester's was shut down by the GSU bar staff; all attendees returned home thankful they had not been so forsaken by God as to skip the event. Thus we respectfully submit, another enjoyable gathering - The Glorious FGSA.

M.F.C. graduates intern in Chile and Saskatchewan

What do forest communities in northern Saskatchewan and southern Chile have in common? Annie McKenzie and Alex Macintosh, graduates from the M.F.C. program (07 and 08) spent the last seven months trying to find out. Interning with the Araucarias del Alto Malleco Model Forest in Chile and then with the Prince Albert Model Forest in Saskatchewan, they acted as a bridge between these organizations and assisted them in developing a strategy for enhanced cooperation between the two Model Forests. Common areas of interest were Indigenous Intercultural Exchange and Integrated Land Management (including NTFPs, eco-tourism and agroforestry). Highlights of the internship in Chile included climbing towering volcanoes and hiking in Monkey Puzzle tree forests. In Saskatchewan, it was the opportunity to go horse back riding to learn about the wild Sturgeon River Plains Bison herd and sustainable rangeland management.



WAY TO GO SLAW

Hello mates!

Bit of an update. Three weeks have now gone by in Movember and my Mo is all grown up. Check out the look at <http://ca.movember.com/mospace/654054/>

Our Mo team survived the road trip to Montreal to see the Leafs/Habs game this past weekend. The Leafs lost but what else is new!

I want to thank those of you who have already donated to Prostate Cancer Canada. Our team has already raised close to 8 grand and I've managed to raise over \$500. We're trying to hit the 10K mark. Only one week left in Movember so those of you that made promises it's time to pony up. If you've been wavering but you're considering a donation now's your chance. If you can't swing it, then no worries, you're there in spirit!

The pertinent info. from Prostate Cancer Canada is found below.

Thanks

Slaw

Yaroslav Medwidsky
Urban Forestry Planner - North District

Urban Forestry Ravine & Natural Feature Protection
355 Lesmill Road
Toronto, ON M3B 2W8

WoodSports Club:



Our Woodsports club had an awesome showing at the annual Sir Sanford Fleming

College competition in Lindsay on November 6th. We had a solid 18-member team show up, including students from all graduate programs (MFC, M.Sc.F., and Ph.D) making up one women's team and two men's teams. We had some excellent performances, but in general the camaraderie and appreciation of the sport made the event a great success. Our club would like to thanks the gracious support of our faculty and of Husqvarna Canada for financial and in-kind



support that made our participation at this event possible; we would also like to thank everyone who showed up to the competition to support our club!

NEW FHS FELLOWS NAMED

This fall, Ken Armson, Yvan Hardy, and Larry Tombaugh were given the FHS Fellow award by the FHS Board of Directors. It is the Society's highest honor. The Fellow award is given either for many years of outstanding sustained contributions to research, writing, or teaching relating to forest history, or for many years of outstanding sustained leadership in one or more core programs or major activities of FHS. Dr. Armson has spent more than 50 years in teaching, research, policy and administration in forestry in Canada; as a member of the Forest History Society for more than 15 years he has engaged with the Society's programs in Canada. Dr. Hardy had a long career in forest research and forestry education in Canada. Elected to the FHS Board in 1994, he served in various capacities and with great enthusiasm until 2009. Dr. Tombaugh had a long career in American forestry and education. His service on the Board from 2001–2007 included! a term as chairman, and he continued to support the Society as its Immediate Past Chairman until 2009.

Faculty of Forestry well Represented in Haida Gwaii

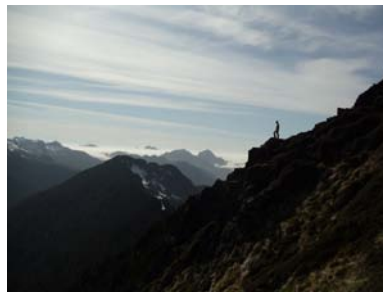
By Dan Holmes

After graduation, forestry students often move to faraway places in order to use the skills they developed at university. You could say they are a solitary bunch that likes to separate and create new lives for themselves. An ecologist might suggest they follow this distribution pattern in order to utilize untapped resources in vacant territories (i.e. jobs). However, like most ecological theories there are exceptions. This summer I found one of these exceptions with a case of *Homo lumberjackis* demonstrating an aggregated distribution. I came across these strange beasts while completing my internship with the Ministry of Forests and Range (MoF) on Haida Gwaii. Haida Gwaii, formally known as the Queen Charlotte Island, is located off the west coast of British Columbia. A total of 5 people with strong links to the Faculty of Forestry currently live and work on the islands, mostly in the town of Queen Charlotte.



Len Munt the District Manager of the MoF Haida Gwaii Forest District and my internship host is a professional associate of the faculty. Every year Munt has been generous enough to allow one or more MFC students to complete internships with the MoF. Putting ecological theory aside Munt is likely the main reason why so many faculty alumni end up on Haida Gwaii. The MFC internship gives

students a taste of what forest management is like on the left coast and despite the rain a few have decided to stay. Tyler Peet, Ricardo Toledo and Christine Pansino are all former MFC students that now live on Haida Gwaii. Peet and Toledo both work for the MoF; Peet works as an Operations Manager and Toledo as an Aboriginal Liaison. Pansino was formally the Executive Director of Laskeek Bay Conservation Society but now works for Parks Canada as a Partnership & Engagement Officer. The final member of the contingent, Hilary Thorpe is a former PhD student of the faculty and is now a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Departments of Geography and Forest Sciences at the University of British Columbia.



The strong representation on Haida Gwaii made me think that perhaps Haida Gwaii has the highest per capita representation of students and associates of the faculty anywhere in the world. According to the 2006 census 948 people live in Queen Charlotte. Excluding Pansino who lives in the nearby community of Tlell, 1 out of every 237 people in town is a former student or associate of the faculty. In comparison, metro Toronto would need to contain nearly 27,000 former students to achieve a similar per capita density.



In any case, I had a great internship this summer and that was in large part due to the forestry alumni that I met.

BUMMER!!!!!!

Even nature seems to be picking on the Faculty of Forestry. During a recent wind storm the large poster on the side of our building took a real kicking. It was always a pleasure to look up and see a little bit of Haliburton Forest in the middle of this cement jungle. Our poster that stood proud promoting our "Green Future" will be sadly missed.



Thanks Mike.....

A special thanks goes to Mike Fuller who will be joining his wife in Albuquerque, where he will be taking up a research position at the University of New Mexico. Mike contributed a lot of energy, skill and knowledge to the Faculty during his time here. His contributions to the student experience will be greatly missed. Keep up the good work in your new position Mike.





Making a Difference---MY WAY

Lucia Frndova MFC'07

When I entered the Masters of Forest Conservation (MFC) program in the Fall of 2005, I knew I wanted to do something that would make a difference. (Isn't that what we all want?) But the path which we choose to make this "difference" varies for all of us. I knew I wanted something official, something central, something public. That's where my interest in public policy started.

Trouble was, although I knew this was the path for me, I was never able to describe to others what was meant by "public policy". Most people (including some family members) associate policy with those annoying administrative barriers that call centre people recite when you ask for something: "I'm sorry ma'am, we can't do that. It's against company policy." Others think of policy as a boring and cumbersome process that involves a lot of paper pushing.

Although both perspectives have some element of truth, the reality is much different and much more exciting. My experience at the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has shown me that policy development is a high-energy, iterative process, which combines the most basic elements of public service functions to the highest level of decision making. What other job allows you to talk with field staff one day, and advise the Minister the next?

To be clear about the definition of policy, let me first quote how MNR defines policy:

A policy is a statement of intended direction developed to guide present and future actions and decisions. A policy statement may deal with any level of decision or action from high-level strategic directions to task-specific administrative procedures.

In essence, policies are rules that help guide administrative functions in an office to the statutes that govern an entire sector. The iterative process is very important, as the feedback or input from stakeholders, from Aboriginal communities, from field staff, or from political staff needs to be combined to perfect policies and ensure their ongoing relevance.

Where the public and political arenas come together – this is my workplace. How does one reconcile all the perspectives, all the scientific knowledge, and specific political sensitivities to come out with a policy that all parties can agree on and understand? Let me tell you – it is definitely not slow, nor is it boring.

The MFC program really helped me develop the core skills I need to survive in my job as a Policy Liaison Officer in the Strategic Policy & Economics Branch. Leadership skills, relationship building skills and good communication skills are vital, as I work in a matrix relationship with the central agency analysts (Cabinet, Management Board, Ministry of Finance, and other offices), other policy or program staff, and the Ministry's Executive Team. The advice I provide to the Executive Team has to be succinct, clear, and accurate, so my ability to translate scientific information into plain language is essential. Lastly, good political acuity and the ability to manage contentious topics is an integral part of my job. Does that sound boring?

Of course, I can use more bureaucratic terminology to define the things I do (e.g. Cabinet submissions, briefing notes, project plans, leading working groups), but let's leave that for anyone interested in a more detailed talk. What is potentially more interesting are examples of the types of files I work on:

- Strategic Planning → Conducting environmental scans, working with cross-ministry teams to our update strategic directions, and briefing the Executive Team helps ensure that MNR is ready to tackle changes, trends, issues and opportunities affecting the province's natural resources and to ensure MNR's work responds to the needs of Ontario citizens.
- Strategic Policy Development → *With the passing of the Accessibility for Ontarians with a Disability Act (AODA), MNR will need to be ready to respond to individuals with a disability. I am tasked with leading a cross-ministry team to better understand MNR's opportunities for improving accessibility for individuals with a disability.*
- Intergovernmental Relations → *Provinces and territories are sometimes asked to provide comments / feedback to the Federal government on relevant parts of the trade negotiations. I work with other ministries, the federal government, and a cross-ministry group to provide comments / feedback on very sensitive information, usually under very tight timelines.*

So, is my goal to make a difference being realized? As you see above, the work I do will impact the future, so I can confidently say "Yes I am!"

If you are interested in pursuing a career in the public service, or in policy, please feel free to contact me for advice/options (lucia.frndova@ontario.ca). I'll leave you with some pictures related to my work.

1. Working at Queen's Park provides some beautiful views and exciting events



Walking through Queen's Park to get to work.



Queen's visit to Queen's Park on July 7, 2010.

2. Dialogue with others is very important in my day-to-day work (even if it's by phone/email most of the time)



MNR Staff Workshop in Timmins, Ontario



Policy Network meeting in Barrie, Ontario

3. Of course, it is important to get outside once in a while to better understand the real "workplace"



Enjoying a day out of the office in Haliburton.



Learning about snakes at Killbear Provincial Park.

Another MFC Graduate “Makes a Difference”

As a Senior Policy Advisor at MNDMF I am working closely with Forestry staff in Sault Ste. Marie and the Deputy Minister here in Toronto on all forestry policy items that require the Minister's or Cabinet's decision. As an example of the types of things I work on, here is a list:

- Cabinet Submissions
- Briefing materials
- Sustainable Forest Licenses
- Supply Agreements
- Policy and Program development

The specific Files that I work on are:

- Modernizing Ontario's Forest Tenure and Pricing System
- Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy
- Industry relations
- Intergovernmental Issues such as: Endangered Species Act – Caribou, Green Energy Act – Renewable Energy

I hope this helps explain a bit about what I do. The organization and strategic thinking skills I had to acquire as an MFC to survive the program have really helped me grow into my career. The position I am in allows me to build on the knowledge gained through undergraduate and graduate studies.

I also act as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Minister when required.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at the number below if you have any more questions.

Julia Hancock

Policy Advisor

Corporate Policy Secretariat, Deputy Minister's Office

Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry

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NORTH BAY FIELD TRIP IS A GO FOR THE 11 TIME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Submitted by Andy Kenney

March 4, 5 & 6. I think this will be the 11th annual excursion. Traditionally, this involved students and faculty from the Faculty of Forestry and Nipissing University, this year we hope to be joined by students from Laval University.

Confirmed Sponsors for the trip are:

CIF/IFC (Algonquin Section and national office)

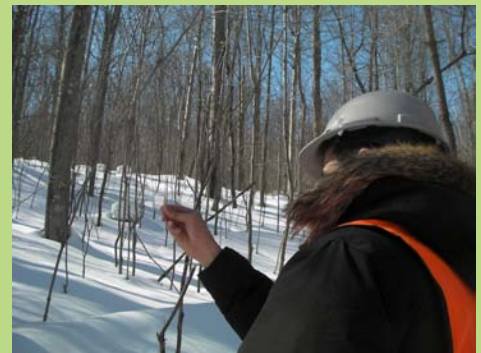
OMNR Southern Science and Information

Forestry Research Partnership

Canadian Wood Fibre Centre & Petawawa

Research Forest

Faculty of Forestry, U of T



This summer Dan Johnston (MScF student) worked with the Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Services branch of the MNR on an important issue facing fire managers in Ontario: blowdown fuels. Over the last decade or so wildfire managers in Ontario have noticed a dramatic increase in the amount of blowdown fuel on the landscape. Blowdown is the result of damaging wind events which can uproot or break off trees across large areas. It seems that the area affected by these wind events and their frequency have increased in recent



years. The result is that blowdown now covers almost 2 million hectares of Ontario's forested land. This fuel type represents serious challenges to fire managers and firefighters. The heavy accumulation of dead fuels presents the potential for extreme and erratic fire behaviour. Working in blowdown, which can be over 3m deep in areas, is also very hazardous to fire crews trying to suppress fires in this fuel type. As this is a relatively new fuel type for fire managers, there is little information on the fuel load and structure of this fuel type. At present no predictive fire behaviour model exists for this fuel type, as do for other common fuel types.



Dan spent his summer helping the AFFES tackle some of these problems. Dan's masters research focuses on new and uncharacterized fuel types. In partnership with MNR staff Dan helped design and implement a new sampling method to measure fuel load and a new method to track changes in fuel structure over time. Dan returned to the field this October to document fire behaviour on a 1000 hectare prescribed burn in blowdown fuels north of Red Lake Ontario. Dan hopes that this research will be one of the first steps towards creating a blowdown specific fire behaviour model.

Dear Alumni, Students, Faculty and Staff,

Below is a call for nominations to serve on the University of Toronto's Governing Council. The Governing Council is a unique Council that strives to be inclusive by including internal and external members of the University community to partake in the decision-making processes that impact the affairs of the University. If you would like to give your time and/or know someone who would be an ideal candidate please consider applying for the position. The Faculty of Forestry Alumni and Staff have amongst us some incredible citizens whose input to University affairs would be an asset.

Please note Alumni can submit nominations from Monday, December 13th (noon) to Friday, January 28th (5 p.m.)

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

Sadia Butt

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO SERVE ON COUNCIL
Make a difference: get involved with Governing Council.

ALUMNI

Nominations for three alumni seats on Governing Council open Monday, Dec. 13 at noon and close Friday, Jan. 28 at 5 p.m.

STAFF and STUDENTS

Nominations for the three teaching staff seats and eight student seats on Governing Council and 16 teaching staff seats on Academic Board open Friday, Jan. 7 at noon and close Jan. 21 at 5 p.m.

Governing Council is responsible for matters such as strategic direction, finance, human resources, capital expenditures and infrastructure, academic quality and student experience.

Comprehensive information about Governing Council is available at
<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca>.