

Forestry Matters

The future of our fragile, beautiful planet home is in our hands. As God's family, we are stewards of God's creation. We can be wantonly irresponsible, or we can be caring and compassionate. God says, "I have set before you life and death... Choose life." (Deut. 30:19)

-Desmond Tutu, *Foreword, The Green Bible*, 2008



January 2012

Dates to remember

February 10 The [63rd Annual OFA Conference and General Members Meeting](#) will be held on Friday February 10th, 2012 at the Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston. This year's theme is "Healthy Forests for Healthy People" and will look at the connections between healthy forests and healthy humans.

February 23-26 MFC Field Trip to North Bay and surrounding area. More information inside.



The soil pit

By Ian Kennedy

Ok, it's about time I make a confession to all MFC and research-stream students who have ever attended Biodiversity Field Camp in Haliburton Forest. On day two of our field camp we take an ecology tour where we visit four different forest ecosystems. At each site we look at plants, trees, and of course what is most important to everything—soil. At each site we need a soil pit dug so Dr. Vic Timmer can point out the different soil horizons, and describe what they are and how they are formed. So every year I head out with John and now Tony to "dig" the required four soil pits ahead of the eager crowds. Over the years a lot of students have openly stated how much effort has gone into the digging those big holes in the ground!! So here is my confession: Guys, those soil pits have been around for over 15 years now. Yes, I did dig them once upon a time, but every year after that they just needed to be refaced and cleaned up. Mind you, it still takes its toll on an old guy like me. The picture above shows my favourite of all the soil pits I've ever dug. It's in podzol soil in a beautiful hemlock stand in Haliburton Forest. Yes, that's me taking a breather. Thanks to Tony Ung for recording my relaxed state.

Remember when?

Anyone who has ever attended classes, worked, or done research at the Faculty of Forestry is well aware of the BBQ tradition we have. Every year our courtyard becomes enveloped with the smoke of burgers and sausage cooking on the grills. If you look closely you will see some guy in a tie. Who is this and what's with the tie?!



Faculty news

Tat Smith will be giving an invited paper at the [International Energy Association's Bioenergy Task 43](#) workshop, "Mobilizing Sustainable Supply Chains for forest biomass for energy," in Charleston, South Carolina on February 21. The goal of the workshop is to "examine the issues involved in mobilization of competitive, sustainable forest bioenergy supply chains from regional to international scales." Tat serves as Associate Task Leader with the international working group, and Sally Krigstin is Task Secretary.

Sean Thomas will deliver the keynote address, "The Surprisingly Strange Ecology of Sugar Maple Canopies," at the U-Links Celebration of Research at Fleming College, Haliburton Campus on March 24.

Sally Krigstin was named Trustee to the [Forest Products Society](#) – Eastern Section for a two-year term.

The Faculty has partnered with the Aravali Foundation for Education, based in New Delhi, and the Ministry of Environment, Government of Delhi to organize the [Congress on Urban Green Spaces](#) in New Delhi, India from March 5–7, 2012. The congress will explore the aesthetic, economic and environmental aspects of urban green spaces and their interactions with public health, pollution, civic engagement, climate change, and policy and planning, among other topics. Shashi Kant is a member of the International Advisory Committee for the congress and has also organized a session titled *Urban Biodiversity: Economics and Valuation*. He will represent the Faculty in person at the congress.

A paper authored by Mojgan Nejad and Paul Cooper titled *Performance Characterization of Coatings on Treated-wood* was designated an awarded paper and orally

presented at the [4th International Color and Coatings Congress](#), held from November 22–24, 2011, at the Amirkabir University of Technology in Tehran, Iran.

Tom Schiks, an M.Sc.F. candidate working in Dave Martell's Fire Management Systems Lab, attended the Prescribed Fire Planning Workshop held in Hinton, Alberta from December 5–8, 2011. The workshop included presentations on long-range weather forecasting, the [Fire Behaviour Knowledge Base](#) and the [Western Partnership for Wildland Fire Science](#).

Jay Malcolm helped organize the Boreal Multi-Cohort Forest Management Workshop held over the December 13–14 weekend at the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) in Cochrane, Ontario. Two days of presentations focused on recent advancements in multi-cohort management of boreal forests and its potential to sustain features of old and mature forests that may become rare under

traditional forest management approaches. CIF will publish a special issue of [Forestry Chronicle](#) showcasing the papers presented at the workshop.

The Faculty is collaborating closely with the recently developed [Invasive Species Centre](#) (ISC)—a cross-disciplinary forum for exchanging research, ideas and management needs and techniques for dealing with invasive aquatic and terrestrial species in Ontario. Tat Smith serves as Chair of the board of directors and Sandy Smith is a key advisor to the ISC on operationalizing their mission, which is to "facilitate and improve coordination, collaboration and decision making with respect to the response to invasive species" of governments, private companies and non-profit organizations in Ontario. The ISC held a meeting of their Board of Directors at the Faculty on January 18.

Nurul Islam discovered a new species of parasitic wasp (*Hymenoptera: Scelionidae*) of the genus *Elgonia* Risb while collecting insects in aquatic habitats in Bangladesh in December. This parasitic wasp presumably attacks the eggs of water scorpions (*Heteroptera: Nepidae*). Dr. L. Masner at the Canadian National Collection of Insects will soon describe this new species and name it in honour of its collector, Md. Nurul Islam. The picture below shows Nurul's trapping set-up in the field in Bangladesh.



A new [display at the Science and Technology Museum](#) showcases the work of Mohini Sain and Amar Mohanty of the University of Guelph, co-leads on an [AUTO21](#) project on bioplastic renewable, recyclable and lightweight structural automobile parts. The museum display, which is part of the "In Search of the Canadian Car" exhibit, shows visitors how finely milled wheatgrass is eventually incorporated into a plastic composite material that can be moulded into automotive mirror casings or interior door panels.

Bioplastics, unlike regular petroleum-based plastics, are made with plant-based materials. They are very light; and lighter vehicles use less fuel. Thus, using bioplastics in the body of a car can increase its energy efficiency. AUTO21 recently secured two years' worth of new funding from the Federal Government's Networks of Centres of Excellence Secretariat.

Fred Pinto, BScF '78, has been nominated by the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat for an [International Forest Hero Award](#), given in recognition of actions that "embody innovative and grassroots initiatives, tapping into the multiple values of forests."

Fred helped create Forests without Borders, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping communities around the world restore their forest ecosystems and achieve sustainability. A past president of the CIF, and current member of its board of directors, Fred has been active in [volunteerism and community service](#) for over 30 years, helping bring the world of forests and sustainable forest management to anyone with an interest. MFC students have had the opportunity to connect with him on the annual MFC field trip to the Canadian Ecology Centre.

The UN Secretariat received 90 nominations from 41 different countries, out of which 15 finalists were picked from five geographic

regions—Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and North America. One award will be given to a nominee from each region at the closing ceremony for the International Year of Forests on February 9 in New York, NY.

Students enrolled in Sean Thomas' graduate course, Stresses in the Forest Environment, are conducting an interesting experiment in our greenhouse: they're comparing the effects of salt, biochar, and combinations of both on seedlings obtained from Haliburton Forest. So far, seedlings treated with salt alone are looking worse for wear,



while those that were also treated with biochar seem to be less stressed. The experiment will be ongoing throughout the semester. MFC '11 students Natasha Machado, Susan Frye and Rebecca Ransome are pictured with the experimental seedlings above.

Look for papers by MFC '10 graduates

Aaron Day, John Barker, Stacey Bowman, Alex Ryland and Dan Marina in the next issue of *Forestry Chronicle*. The papers are edited versions of their final major papers, submitted for consideration in December.

Stacey Bowman, MFC '10, is filling the role of communications coordinator for the faculty for a four-month term. Find her in room 1019, or reach her at 416-978-0474 or stacey.bowman@utoronto.ca. She loves to chat!

Paul Aird received a 2011 [A.D. Latornell Conservation Pioneer Award](#), given annually since 1999 to individuals who have made long-term contributions to the conservation field through their work, career or volunteer efforts. Recipients are chosen by an appointed committee and announced at the [Latornell Conservation Symposium](#). Paul is a Professor Emeritus at the Faculty and has 35 years of activity in forest conservation research, forest policy and law, forest geography and history, conservation education, as well as parks, wilderness and nature preservation. He has been a champion and guardian of the rare Kirtland's Warbler for 35 years. He is also an accomplished writer of children's nature books, ecological fables and nature tales, as well as other books on Canada's natural heritage. Paul was nominated by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Pembroke District. Watch a [video](#) about Paul's contributions.

A few MFC '11 students could be traveling far afield for internships this summer. One such opportunity is based in Honduras with the non-profit [GreenWood](#), where Alex Karney, MFC '08, is the consulting forester. GreenWood links sustainable forest producers with a network of woodworking mentors and enhanced access to local, regional and export markets. GreenWood does not currently possess funds for a student's living stipend and round-trip flight, or to compensate local supporting personnel and logistics. GreenWood estimates that a sum of \$4500 would cover these needs. If you are interested in helping support this internship opportunity, please contact GreenWood Executive Director Scott Landis at scott@greenwoodglobal.org.



The Faculty has joined the Twitterverse! Tweet us on Twitter @UofTForestry and join our conversations about forests, conservation, forestry and forestry education. You can also check out our Forestry Matters news posts, now updated on the bottom of the faculty [homepage](#).

Review of International Forest Film Festival

“NO SAPS AT THIS FESTIVAL”

By Anne Koven

Almost 200 people gathered at Innis Hall for the International Forest Film Festival at the University of Toronto on November 30. The [Ontario Forestry Association](#) and the Faculty of Forestry collaborated on the event to celebrate the United Nations- designated International Year of the Forest, 2011.

The six forest films selected by the judges—OFA staff members Mike Halferty, MFC '08, and Jessica Kaknevicus, MFC '07—were Hollywood-caliber. Themes were diverse, exploring forestry, fire management, activism and politics. Films provided by the [Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival](#) included *Cultivating Common Ground: The Story of the Lakeview Stewardship Group*, which chronicles an unlikely stewardship effort between loggers and environmentalists in Lakeview, Oregon; *Disturbance*, which explores fire management and fire ecology in the Northern Rockies, where disturbance has a different meaning to local homeowners who want to protect their property and taxpayers living in other parts of the country; and *Climbing Redwood Giants*, which captures stories of the fearless (or crazy) climbing scientists

International Forest Film Festival



that research the canopies of California Redwoods.

CanCon content included the National Film Board's 1979 animated *Log Driver's Waltz*; and filmmaker Adam Greenberg's *Wild Places; Banff National Park* about

back-country workers in Banff who know they have the best jobs in the world. The official film of the International Year of the Forests introduced the evening—photographed by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, *Of Forests and Men—Introducing the International Year of Forests* captures the most majestic forests across all continents.

Festival organizers aimed to attract not just forestry students and forest-fans, but general film buffs who might be exposed to the world of forests and forestry for the first time. They succeeded in their goal, with many attendees hard-pressed to tell their xylem from their phloem. Lots of forestry students were also there, swinging from the branches and winning some cool gifts donated by sponsors [Trees Ontario](#), [ethicalDeal](#), [TreeCanada](#), [LEAF](#), the [Canadian Institute of Forestry](#) and [GreenHere](#).

Faculty graduates the 200th MFC

The MFC class of 2010 received their rings from Andy Kenney and Sally Krigstin at a Christmas potluck dinner held in a festively-decorated room 4001 (unrecognizable!) after successfully presenting their final papers to a packed house of faculty and external advisors on December 18 and 19. There are now over 200 MFCs working across Canada and the world in the private, public and non-profit sectors, spreading the Faculty's values of sustainable, integrative forest management and conservation.



WOODSPORTS TEAM COMPETES AT FLEMING COLLEGE IN LINDSAY

Every fall for a number of years the Forestry students have put together a woodsports team to compete with other eastern universities and colleges from Canada and the US. They always manage to get two or three teams together and find one day to practice at Jokers Hill. I live close to Lindsay so I have always had the honour to go and cheer on our teams. While they never place first, I can tell you that they give the biggest first place effort one can imagine. There is also a special bond in this sport. Other teams help our guys out by cheering them on and even loaning them equipment; and the judges also do what they can with advice and assistance. I honestly believe that the UofT Faculty of Forestry Woodsports team commands a high level of respect at this event. As their only staff member cheering em on, I say way to go everyone—I'm proud of ya. Here are a few photos showcasing their efforts.



Be sure to send along news, event announcements, updates, achievements and successes, etc. Let's just say I will take anything and everything for the newsletter, so flip it my way. Hoping all is well with everyone out there. Back at ya in a month or so. Email Me at ian.kennedy@utoronto.ca