

# Forestry Matters

**"The best friend on earth of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on the earth."**

**-- Frank Lloyd Wright**



March 2012

## Dates to remember

April 15 to 29

MFC International Field Camp – Malaysia and Borneo

May 6 to 12

12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Biocomposites – Niagara Falls, Ontario

**Some of you know of it, some of you have actually visited it, and a lot of you have heard of it.** Semi hidden in the inner sanctum of the Forestry wing in the ESC is “the Lodge.” It’s had a few different names over the years—Kudo Lodge, The Den, the Liars Den, and finally now it’s just the Lodge. Within the four walls of this secret place you can find many interesting old forestry artifacts, some “odd” pieces of forestry field trips, some great photos old and new, and even some items that just have a great story behind them. At 8:30 every morning Lodge members stumble up for their morning coffee and get their day started. It’s a great way to start a day with some laughs, some work and some nonsense. Some think this is the place where all the important decisions are made—maybe what’s for lunch but that’s about it. This secret place is 4000e, and it’s not a private. If you’re an early bird and would like to join us please feel free to pop in between 8:30 and 9 a.m. and start your day off with a good laugh or two ... and well maybe some bitchin from me.

See you in the Lodge,  
Ian

## Remember when?

Shortly after moving into the Earth Science Centre we hosted “Spirit of The Woods,” which included a wonderful showcase of wood art from all corners of the country. Part of this celebration included putting up a number of souvenir items for sale, including Spirit of the Woods backpacks and various items of clothing. We ordered too many items and ended up with a surplus and no way of getting rid of the stock. Solution? The Faculty launched an essay-writing contest for high school students in Ontario on “The Importance of Forestry in Canada.” Winners were invited to join the Faculty for a day, and were presented with Spirit of the Woods backpacks and a cheque. This picture shows then Forester’s Club President Doug Wells with Dr Dave Balsillie making those presentations. Oh to have those essays today...





## Faculty news

**Sean Thomas received a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Special Projects Grant** to research the impacts of biochar (charcoal from biomass) on northern forests, including the possibility that biochar application could increase a forest's ability to store carbon. UofT News featured Sean in [an article](#) about professors who received NSERC grants in February for projects that can help enhance Canada's economy, society and environment in the next 10 years.

**Sandy Smith spoke as part of a panel of women in leadership** at UofT on International Women's Day on March 8. Sandy and colleagues Dean Sioban Nelson of nursing, Dean Julia O'Sullivan of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and Principal Janet Paterson of New College spoke about their experiences as women in leading management roles. "My family has enriched my life and made me a better administrator," Sandy said, "and the

challenges of administration help me go back home and see what the priorities are." She also stressed the importance of enjoying the journey: "Enjoy the process. You need end goals, but appreciate the here and now." Read more about the panel in the [UofT News article](#).

**Mohini Sain and Ning Yan are helping to organize the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Biocomposites**, taking place in Niagara Falls May 6 to 12. This year's theme is Transition to Green Materials, and will include speakers from North and South America, Europe and China on the latest research and technology related to wood and biofibres and their uses in industry and product manufacturing.

**MScF student Malcolm Cecil-Cockwell co-wrote an article** about the origins of the radical environmental group Earth Liberation Front that was published in the Atlantic magazine in February. Malcolm's book on the Canadian

forestry industry called *The Forests of Canada: A Study of the Canadian Forestry Sector and its Position in the Global Timber Trade* is now [available in draft-form](#) online.

**The Faculty exhibited at a handful of events this semester** including the Ontario Forestry Association's annual conference, the UofT Centre for the Environment Environmental Career Day, the UofT March Break Open House for high school students, and the UofT Sustainable Energy Fair, where **Tat Smith was also part of a lunchtime speakers panel**. Students and staff volunteered their time and energy to man these booths and be the open, energetic face of our Faculty.

**Several MFC '11 students again volunteered to moderate speaker panels** at this year's [Ontario Forestry Association conference](#) held in early February at the Nottawasaga Inn in Aliston, Ontario. The conference theme was "Healthy Forests Healthy People" and speakers illuminated different connections between forest health and human health.

### **Sean Thomas delivered a talk on the forest industry and conservation**

after a free screening of the Oscar-winning documentary, [\*If a Tree Falls: A story of the Earth Liberation Front\*](#), about clashes between the US Forest Service, timber companies and radical environmental groups in the 1990s. The screening was part of Hart House's [\*Concious Docs\*](#) series, running through to the end of March.

**Sandy Smith will be taking attendees of the Jackman Humanities Institute conference,** Locating Compassion in Land Ethics, on a tour of her apiary atop the Earth Science's Building on March 24. The visit is part of a presentation by Brian Hamlin called "Sweet Connections of Local Environmental Health and Honeybees."

**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.

**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.

### **MFC internships span the globe**

By Sally Krigstin, MFC Coordinator

The clock is ticking to end of term and while most students are busy with assignment and exam preparation, many of our MFC's are dotting the "i"s on the contracts for their summer internships. This year we have an especially adventurous group with individuals travelling the globe to help resolve important forestry issues. One student will be working in Hoima, Africa with the Jane Goodall Institute on their Sustainable Livelihoods Project. Another student will be joining Dr. Barbara Zimmerman in the indigenous territory in Brazil to assist with the Kayapo Project. Yet another will be working closer to home with the Suzuki Foundation on the Rouge river valley project. I look forward to September when we will all have the privilege of learning about the wonderful experiences of our 2011 MFC's.

**Tat Smith gave an invited paper and lead an international workshop** put on by IEA Bioenergy Task 43 on February 21 in Charleston, South Carolina. The workshop, titled "Mobilizing Sustainable Supply Chains for Forest Biomass for Energy," brought together speakers from Ireland, Italy, Finland, Denmark, Canada, and the United States. The workshop addressed operational challenges in developing sustainable supply chains for biomass, recent policy initiatives in the EU to ensure sustainability, existing market and trade barriers, and how to build an economic case for biomass for energy. Jamie Joudrey, MFC '10, served as Interim Task 43 Secretary for Sally Krigstin, who was accompanying the MFCs in North Bay.

- Jamie Joudrey

**The 2012 MFC International Field Course will take students to Malaysia and Borneo** from April 15 to 29 to study forest ecology, conservation, timber processing, silviculture and plantation forestry in visits to the Pasoh Forest Reserve in Malaysia, and the Sepilok Forest Resort, Deramakot Forest Reserve, and Kinabalu National Park in Borneo.

### **IN THE NEWS: Media stories about faculty and staff**

#### **Featured:**

- Sean Thomas' NSERC grant: UofT News
- Sandy Smith speaks on IWD panel: UofT News
- MFC trip to North Bay: UofT News

#### **Quoted:**

- Sandy Smith on the warm winter: Toronto Star
- Sandy Smith on canopy preservation: Toronto Star



## MFC '11 learns the clear-cut truth in North Bay

By Jennifer Gagne, MFC '11

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 21 eager Masters of Forest Conservation students and three brave professors set out to North Bay and Mattawa for a peek into the exciting world of forest management and conservation. The weather couldn't have been better; the sun was out, it wasn't too windy, and when we weren't trying to physically push our poor city vans up the steep icy hills, the road conditions weren't all that bad.

Each day, after a hearty breakfast, we strapped on our snowshoes and made our way into the outdoor classrooms, which varied between commercial lots, a research forest in Petawawa, and a fur harvester auction in North Bay. In the field, we practiced our tree marking skills, had the opportunity to see a red-tailed hawk's nest, and learned about all the factors that feed into the complicated world of forest management. While visiting Westwind and FSC-certified Tembec operations, we saw the differences between a single-selection woodlot, different stages of shelterwood cuts and clearcuts.

Each site added something new to our knowledge base and when we made it to the clearcut site, we couldn't help but be blown away. The great open area with large standards, seed trees, and evidence of new regeneration definitely challenged the popular perception of what a clearcut should look like. It was a relief to hear that these initiatives are practiced in similar ways throughout Canada so as to mimic natural disturbance and provide conditions favourable to the species present. Although economics plays a role in the decision-making process, it isn't necessarily the driving force.

All of the activities were so interesting that it was easy to forget how exhausted we were. When we weren't in the forest or the lecture hall, we were singing Beatles songs around a campfire, eating maple taffy off the freshly fallen snow at a sugar shack in Petawawa, or (my favorite) howling at wolves in the distance. Our great new friends at the Canadian Ecology Centre definitely put in the effort to ensure our group had a memorable experience. The consensus is that this trip was unlike any other: it will definitely go down in MFC history as one to remember!



### New website launching soon!

We're designing a new website to showcase our programs and research, connect with our alumni and community partners, attract new students and supporters, and tell the world what Forestry at UoT is all about. Look out for our new look this spring, and be sure to tell us what you think!