



Jane Hoek, Tyee Photo

Newsletter #4

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CENTRE'S NEW STAFF STRUCTURE

The Centre's Board of Directors recently approved a new staff structure to better reflect our priorities. A new Research Program Manager will replace the current Executive Director. The Research Program Manager will take on many of the responsibilities previously carried out by the Executive Director, but will focus more on developing research proposals and delivering the extension program and less on policy development.

The Research Program Manager position is now posted, and applications for this contract position are due **December 16th**.

Please go to our website, www.bvcentre.ca, or follow the link below, for a full description of this exciting new position.

[www.bvcentre.ca/HTML/
Articles\(Home\)/
ResearchProgramManager
-JobPosting.htm](http://www.bvcentre.ca/HTML/Articles(Home)/ResearchProgramManager-JobPosting.htm)

The BV Research Centre is about to complete another successful year with fifteen local consultants working on twelve interesting and diverse projects.

COLLABORATING ON MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE RESEARCH BENEFITS EVERYONE

Collaborative research, data sharing and intergenerational learning were the name of the game this past summer as BV Research Centre scientists pooled their efforts to learn more about how trees regenerate and forest stand structure evolves after mountain pine beetle attack.



Consulting biologist Debbie Cichowski, BC Forest Service researcher Erin Hall, and summer student Jacqueline Prior collect data in a mountain pine beetle-killed stand. Normally the fisheye lens is pointed upwards to measure light transmission through the forest canopy.

Photo credit: P. Williston.

In August Tlell Glover, the Centre's coop student, joined the field crews of BC Forest Service research silviculturist Dave Coates and Canadian Forest Service/UNBC scientist Phil Burton in Vanderhoof, to collect data on pre- and post-disturbance conifer regeneration in the understories of beetle-affected stands. Then in September Coates, along with BC Forest Service research silviculturist Erin Hall and summer student Jacqueline Prior, teamed up with Debbie Cichowski of Caribou Ecological Services and Patrick Williston of Gentian Botanical Research to continue the data-gathering project south of Ootsa Lake. For the past six years, Cichowski and Williston have been monitoring how lichen, kinnikinnick and other forest understory plants respond, and how woody debris accumulates on the forest floor, as mountain pine beetle-killed forest canopies break up. They have been studying this in an effort to understand the effects of beetle-kill on the availability of forage for the

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP HELD IN JUNE

The BV Research Centre hosted a Research Partnership Workshop in June. The 25 participants discussed research priorities and funding opportunities that build upon the research expertise available in the region. Topics included practical aspects of attracting funding, international opportunities and financing, and how to form effective partnerships.

One of the key outcomes of the workshop was the development of a Research Action Plan. The priorities, which it identified, are steering the work of the Centre. For example, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) was identified as a high probability funding source that could be utilised to address high priority research topics. One such topic is riparian ecosystem response to varied management regimes, and we have now submitted a proposal on that subject.

The success of the workshop has encouraged the Board to consider holding an annual workshop to enlist the help of our members in establishing our research priorities.

endangered Tweedsmuir caribou herd and on their movements. Coates and his crew study how the changes in forest structure affect tree growth and use the SORTIE-ND model to project the impacts on mid-term and long-term timber supplies.

Coates is highly enthusiastic about the data sharing effort: "We helped them with their data collection and in return, gained access to the data from their permanent monitoring plots. The joint fieldwork is more fun for everyone and the students are exposed to a wider variety of research applications. This collaboration would never have happened without the BV Research Centre."

HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT YOU?

By now we are all aware of climate change, but have little idea how it will affect each of us. Whatever our occupation, knowing just what the future climate holds in store, in any particular area, will help us to plan accordingly and adapt. Knowing what the climate will look like in 5, 10, 15 or 50 years will also give us a greater understanding of just how our ecosystems may change. Will there be more deer, moose, caribou? More forest fires? Will more summer migrant birds stay for the winter? Scientific analyses of how the climate may change and how ecosystems may be affected will provide the BV Research Centre with an important tool for designing needed research programs.

A climate change program has recently been developed for BC and the Yukon which will provide us with just such a tool. This program is one of the first of its kind and is the result of a collaborative project between UBC and the BC Government, which pulls together the best available science to predict what may be in store for us over the next 75 years. This program can be found at <http://genetics.forestry.ubc.ca/cfgc/climate-models.html#-climatebcv2>. It is available to anyone who is interested, and simply needs you to input the elevation, latitude and longitude of the area you are concerned with. You will then be able to explore the most likely scenario for your future climate, on a monthly, seasonal or annual basis.

NORTHWEST BC RESEARCHERS IN INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Northwest BC was in the international media spotlight recently when two BV Research Centre-affiliated scientists, Alex Woods and Dave Coates, along with their colleague Andreas Hamann of the University of Alberta, published a paper linking an unprecedented outbreak of the *Dothistroma* needle blight fungus to recent mild wet summer weather in the region. Their research provided one of the first explicit demonstrations of how anthropogenic climate change coupled with changes in land use practices can transform a formerly benign disease agent into a significant economic threat. The article appeared in the September 2005 issue of the prestigious American journal "Bioscience". The story was featured on the journal's editorial page and was picked up by Canadian Press, the Globe & Mail, the Vancouver Sun, the Victoria Colonist, various national and local radio and television broadcasts, as well as several European media outlets.

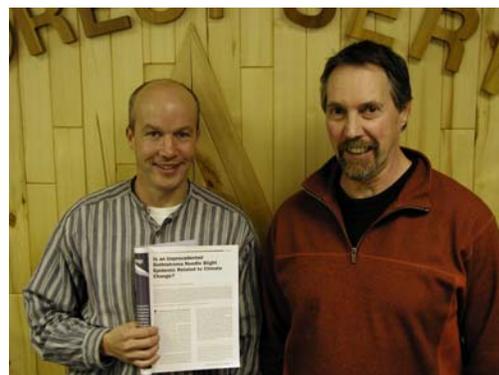
Woods, a research forest pathologist, and Coates, a research silviculturist, work for the BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Northern Interior Region, and are based in Smithers, BC. While this research project was funded and carried out by the BC Ministry of Forests and Range, both are active members and researchers with the Bulkley Valley Research Centre. We congratulate Alex, Dave, and Andreas on an excellent piece of work that has served to highlight the quality and timeliness of the scientific research taking place within our region. For links to the article, media reports and more information on *Dothistroma* needle blight, visit the Centre's website at www.bvcentre.ca.

NOMINATIONS

A key item of business at the upcoming Annual General Meeting is the election of directors. The BV Research Centre Nominating Committee is currently soliciting applications by members who desire to stand for the election of directors. If you are a member in good standing and would like to be considered for nomination, please express your interest to the Nominating Committee through a letter describing how your directorship will forward the purpose and objectives of the BV Research Centre over the next year. For consideration, applications of interest must be sent by email to info@bvcentre.ca to the attention of the "Nominating Committee" by **December 31st**.

AGM IN FEBRUARY

Mark your calendars.
The BV Research Centre's AGM
will be on
February 7th, 2006.



Alex Woods and Dave Coates
with the article that ignited the media storm.

**SEMINAR SERIES
2005-2006**

Dec. 14th
Dr. David Wilford, RPF, PGeo.,
Research Forest Hydrologist,
Ministry of Forests and Range,
Smithers, B.C.
Protection Forests - Keeping
Watershed Reserves Functioning

Jan. 18th
Kerrith McKay, MSc.,
Biological Contractor,
Smithers, B.C.
Costs and Consequences of Male
Attendance Behaviour at
Common Eider Colonies

Feb. 8th
Craig DeLong, MSc., RPBio.,
Research Ecologist, Ministry
of Forests and Range,
Prince George, B.C.
The Red Green Map - Using
Ecological Knowledge to Change
Policy and Practice

Feb. 22nd
Adrian de Groot, BSc., RPBio.,
Drosera Ecological Consulting,
Smithers, B.C.
Landscape Scale Structure and
Dynamics, and Conservation
Ranking of Skeena River
Floodplain Forests

Mar. 8th
Dr. David Coates, Ministry of
Forests and Range,
Smithers, B.C.
How the Agricultural Model does
not Fit Forestry

Mar. 22nd
Allen Banner, RPBio, RPF,
Research Ecologist, Ministry
of Forests and Range,
Smithers, B.C.
Ecosystem Recovery - From the
Ground Up

Apr. 5th
Jeff Anderson
Climate Change and Oceans -
Impact on the Queen Charlotte
Islands

For information on the seminar
series please contact
Dave Weaver at
David.Weaver@gems2.gov.bc.ca

**RENOWNED AUSTRALIAN SCIENTIST VISITS
SMITHERS**

The BV Research Centre's winter seminar series got off to a flying start on October 4th when conservation biologist David Lindenmayer of the Australian National University in Canberra addressed participants on environmental responses to salvage harvesting. Dr. Lindenmayer, winner of the prestigious Eureka Prize for his study of the endangered Leadbeater's possum in Australia, is one of the world's leading forest conservation biologists. In North America he is best known for his collaborations with noted US ecologist Dr. Jerry Franklin, including their recently published book "Conserving forest biodiversity: A comprehensive, multi-scaled approach."

Dr. Lindenmayer was in northern BC to present the Doug Little Memorial Lecture at UNBC. Thanks to Dr. Phil Burton, he took time to visit the Bulkley Valley with his family, and to speak to the BV Research Centre seminar group about his research on the recovery of Australian rainforests after wildfire and salvage logging.

With ecosystems around the world being subjected to unprecedented stress from the cumulative effects of global warming and human land use, Lindenmayer and other scientists have begun to raise the alarm about the negative effects of aggressive salvage on the natural recovery mechanisms that exist in all forest ecosystems. The seminar was timely in light of the massive salvage harvesting operation currently taking place in mountain pine beetle-affected forests of central B.C.



David Lindenmayer with the non-endangered brush-tailed possum.
Photo credit: Rebecca Hallas.

BV RESEARCH CENTRE AWARDS

At their last board meeting, the directors agreed to institute two awards for excellence, to be presented at the Annual General Meeting. One will recognize a scientist, or group of scientists, who has (have) made an outstanding contribution to knowledge and sustainability of natural resources in northwest British Columbia. The other will honour the author(s) of an outstanding scientific paper or publication pertaining to natural resources and sustainability in northwest B.C.

These awards will recognize and draw attention to the work done by researchers to address natural resources management issues in our region, and in so doing will raise the profile of the research going on in this part of the world to the benefit of all. Members will soon be sent the criteria and invited to send in nominations.

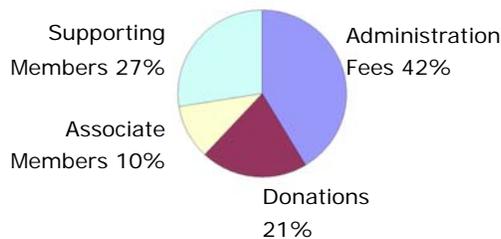
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's time to renew your membership for 2006. This year, we have 77 members; our goal for next year is 100 members. A special thanks to Canfor Houston, Pacific Inland Resources, the Ministry of Environment, and the Integrated Land Management Bureau for their "Supporting Membership".

Why do we need your membership?

- We rely on membership fees to fund the basic operations of the Centre. The pie graph below shows our sources of operational revenue for the past year. More than 10% of that revenue comes from associate memberships.
- We operate the Centre on a slim overhead budget, so you can be assured that your membership is important!!

OPERATIONAL REVENUE



Why should you contribute to the BV Research Centre?

- First, the Centre is generating results. We are now effectively delivering research projects, attracting new research funds, and getting the results of our research into the communities.
- Second, our work is supporting the local communities. In the past three years, the Centre has provided nearly \$1 million of research funds, most of which ended up as wages for local researchers.
- Third, as a member of the Centre, you are supporting research relating to ecosystem and community sustainability that will benefit communities in the Bulkley Valley and beyond, and you will be able to help determine our program priorities.

You will receive a renewal notice in January. Please be generous and support the Centre. Remember that your donation is tax-deductible since we are a registered charitable organization. If you know someone else who might be interested in the BV Research Centre, please pass this newsletter on to them.

BV RESEARCH CENTRE PRESIDENT RECEIVES AWARD

BV RESEARCH CENTRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2005-2006)

Sybille Haeussler, President

Kevin Kriese, Vice-president

Brian Edmison, Treasurer

Anne Harfenist, Secretary

Tom Buri

Frank Doyle

Rosemary Fox

Steve Gordon

Don Morgan

Paul Sanborn

Carl Vandermark

Dave Wilford

Jim Pojar, Past President

Irving Fox, Director Emeritus



Sybille Haeussler receiving Killam Fellowship Award from Robert Wyman, former Chancellor of UBC and Director of the Killam Trust, October 19, 2005.

Photo Credit: Jeffrey Hsu, UBC

Sybille Haeussler, President of the Bulkley Valley Research Centre, has been awarded a prestigious Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Fellowship for 2005. The post-doctoral fellowship, worth \$94,000 over two years, is awarded to recent PhD graduates across all disciplines in the sciences and humanities and is one of the premier research awards of its type offered in Canada.

Dr. Haeussler recently took up a position as a Killam (Honorary) and NSERC post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Forest Sciences at UBC. She will use the award to continue her research with the BV Research Centre on ecosystem diversity, resilience and restoration success on the lower Skeena River floodplain and in boreal mixed wood forests of northern BC.

"It's a huge thrill for me to receive this award," she said, "not only because it validates all my hard work, but also because it recognizes that the research being done by Centre scientists in northwest BC rates among the best in Canada."



HAPPY HOLIDAYS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resources Research & Management

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