

Learn Forestry News

June 2009



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Forest Educator, Okanagan-Columbia Zone

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Letter from the Publisher

Jennifer Stewart, Forest Educator
Okanagan-Columbia Zone

With school now coming to an end, we can now reflect back on what an eventful year it has been!! It was great to see all that has been accomplished by the network of forest educators in BC's Interior over the past months, despite some funding setbacks due to the current economic situation in the forest industry. With the approval of government funding this year to assist with the delivery of forest education programs, forest educators were able to continue organizing and hosting forest education events, tours, workshops, career fairs and camps across BC's Northern and Southern Interior, working to educate and inform teachers, students and the general public about natural resource issues.



In this edition of the Learn Forestry News, please take time to read about some of the accomplishments of these forest educators over the past months and about the work and programs of related forestry groups, associations, camps and post-secondaries in our province.

Great work, everyone, and to the forest educators around the Southern Interior, enjoy a restful summer holiday!!

Jen Stewart



Okanagan-Columbia Forest Education Highlights

Jennifer Stewart & Kalon Nahachewsky (Forest Educators)

Grade 5 Kit Workshops

Forest Education Coordinators Jennifer Stewart and Kalon Nahachewsky held teacher workshops around the Okanagan early in the New Year to present information on how to use the Gr. 5 forest education kits. This was a great opportunity to not only connect with teachers, but to take them step-by-step through the "Our Living Resource: The Forest" teaching kit. Every school in the Okanagan-Columbia zone should have one of these grade 5 teaching kit by the end of this school year.



Lisa Marak, Communication Coordinator for the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations, also took part in these workshops. With over ten years of resource management, including a woodlot licence, Lisa has just developed an intermediate teaching resource, "Our Family' Forest: BC's Woodlot License Program" and was able to workshop and distribute her resource to the teachers who attended.

Teacher Professional Development Day

In February, the District Teacher Professional Development Day saw Forest Educators Jennifer Stewart and Kalon Nahachewsky feature forestry grade 3 and grade 5 teaching kits, as well as some other resources that are available for teachers to use in the classroom. Lisa Marak, from the BC Federation of Woodlot Associations, presented the newly-developed intermediate teaching kit from BC's Woodlot Licence program, which introduces the forest, the forest resources and the integrated hands-on management of woodlot licences around BC.

ILA Tradeshow and Convention's Secondary Career Fair

The Interior Logging Association's 2009 Tradeshow and Convention held in April at the Vernon Multiplex showcased its large outdoor display of high-tech forestry machines and also once again included a **secondary student forestry career fair**, organized by Okanagan/Columbia Forest Education. Students attending the career fair visited booths manned by participating post-secondaries and forestry associations, including TRU, BCIT, UNBC, ABCFP/UBC, the Canadian Women in Timber, Silver Lake Forest Education Society and the BC Federation of Woodlot Associations.

As well, the ILA's forest education van was available for public tours and forest education resources were on display, hosted by local forest educators from the Okanagan/Columbia, Thompson and COFI South Forest Education.



Jen Stewart (Okanagan-Columbia) and Susan Bondar (Thompson Forest Education) man the ILA Career Fair's forest education booth.

Interior Logging Association's Forest Education Van on Tour

The **Interior Logging Association's forest education van** has been a very well-used education tool since its inception in 2001. This year, VIU forestry student Josh Craig has been hired for the spring and summer months to visit schools, parks, camps and community events around the Southern Interior. The first tour in May saw the van travelling to schools in the Thompson and Gold Trail School Districts, followed by a trip to the West Kootenay for Kaslo's Logger Sports Days and presentations at elementary schools in the Trail and Castlegar area.



Summer student, Josh Craig, shows students the forest education materials on display at the Mayor's Environmental Expo.

On

arriving back in the Okanagan, the forest education van attended the Mayor's Environmental Expo, Kelowna Family Day and the Fat Cat Children's Festival. Other destinations such as local elementary schools, Okanagan Valley Provincial campgrounds, Silver Lake Kids' Camp in Peachland and the Boys'

and Girls' Club summer camps will keep Josh on the go as he tours and educates about our forests and BC's forest industry throughout the summer in Southern BC communities.

COFI South Forest Education has overseen the development of several new resources for the forest education van this year. A watershed poster created for Forestry Week 2009 school presentations can now be seen when the van goes on tour, as well as a new picture series on forests and water for the van's interior display.

See a video showing forest education van school presentations at the Cayoosh Elem. website, under "Discover the Forestry Van"

<http://www.cayooshkidz.net/videos.html>

West Kootenay Forest Education Highlights

Toni Appleby (Forest Educator)

West Kootenay forest educator, Toni Appleby, has been putting her experience as a wildlife technician and tracker to good use in her work with students and community groups. She has taken



groups on field trips to the summit of the Salmo-Creston Highway, where she has conducted tours of various silviculture systems and discussed responsible harvesting in Caribou habitat. She has also educated schools and groups on topics such as MPB, tree ID, active logging sites in alpine zones and predator/prey relationships and has hosted mill tours and presentations on the history of logging, sustainability and practical harvesting.



Andrea Vienneau (Atco Wood Products) and Josh Craig (ILA Summer Student) prepare for the day's presentations at Fruitvale Elementary.

In May, the Interior Logging Association's forest education van travelled to the West Kootenay on the Victoria Day weekend for Kaslo May Days. It also toured a number of elementary schools in the Trail/Castlegar area for the remainder of the week, led by the ILA's forestry summer student, Josh Craig and assisted by volunteer forest professionals Ron Ozanne and Andrea Vienneau from Atco Wood Products, Mike Klassen from the Arrow Forest District Office and forest

professional, Ami Haworth. Many thanks to the volunteer professionals for offering their time to help make the forest education van tour to the West Kootenay a success!!

East Kootenay Forest Education Highlights

Jim Jenkinson (Forest Educator)

YES 2 IT Trades Event Held in Cranbrook Media Release

Ninety Grade 9 students from 10 different schools from Golden to Creston converged on College of the Rockies in Cranbrook to take part in a project called YES 2 IT (Youth Exploring Skills to Industry Training). The students were split into two groups of 45 each day on Wednesday and Thursday, May 20 and 21. The Electrical, Welding and Carpentry shops at COTR operated hands-on projects for the students under the supervision of College faculty and student apprentices. Tours of the Heavy Duty/Transport Mechanics, Planermill and Timber Framing shops at the main campus and the Gold Creek Campus were also held. The day



ended with a fun skills competition and barbecue at the College.

Project Coordinator Brian Conrad said the project "is designed to increase awareness of trades among younger students as well as their parents, educators and communities. It provides an opportunity for these students to have a hands-on experience in a trades-related atmosphere."

"Parents were encouraged to attend with their children," Conrad added. "It was a great opportunity for them to learn about the Apprenticeship system in BC in particular and trades training in general."



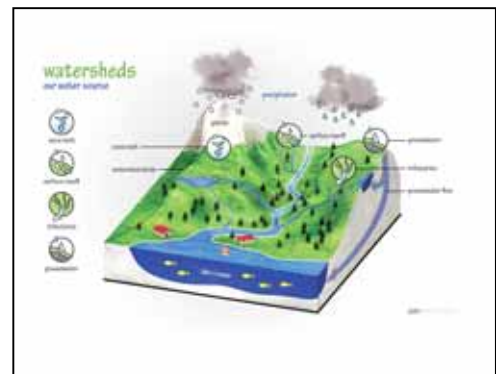
This event was sponsored by the Resources Training Organization and the Industry Training Authority, all three East Kootenay School Districts, Tembec Industries, RONA, Acklands, Teck Coal Corporation and WorkSafe BC in addition to the College of the Rockies Trades Department. (ED. Note: East Kootenay forest educator and local school trustee, Jim Jenkinson, was also once again on the planning committee for this year's Yes2IT event.)

Thompson Forest Education Highlights

Susan Bondar (Forest Educator)

Forestry Week 2009 School Presentations

"Our Watersheds" was the topic for the Spring Forestry Presentations this year. Thirty forestry personnel presented the lesson in Kamloops/Thompson School District and also Merritt and Princeton to 3,800 students and teachers. Students are already well-versed in their knowledge of water, water quality and water consumption, so watersheds were a great topic to add to their base knowledge. The students learned about the amount of usable fresh water on the Earth's surface, sources of water in a watershed and how nature looks after water quality. The students were then able to brainstorm on ideas of how they can affect water quality in positive and negative ways. Many thanks for the support from the forest industry in providing forestry personnel for delivering the lessons to students and teachers!!



(ED. NOTE: The Forestry Week 2009 Watershed lesson was developed as a joint project by Thompson, Okanagan/Columbia and COFI forest educators and will be available on the Learn Forestry website for teachers to access. A new watershed

poster developed by COFI South Forest Education as a visual resource to accompany the lesson will also be available on the Learn Forestry site at www.learnforestry.com under "Lesson Plans- Forestry Week".)

ILA Forest Education Van Tours Gold Trail District

The Interior Logging Association (ILA) Forest Education Van was used in the Gold Trail District this May for a tour of all the Elementary Schools. The communities in Gold Trail include Clinton, Cache Creek, Lillooet, Lytton and Ashcroft. Josh Craig is the summer forestry student driver of the Van this year and really enjoyed the trip through the Fraser Canyon and Lillooet area. The Fraser River was quite turbulent, the scenery was spectacular and so was the road between Lillooet and Lytton. It was quite an experience to drive the Van through the area of highway that is sloughing into the Fraser River and most of the rocks come from above the highway.....not a fun experience. Josh sure enjoyed the adventure though.

It was so great to share the Forest Education Van with the students in Gold Trail. These are young people who live in small communities and who are still very much in touch with the forests and nature. Many students are First Nations and enjoyed sharing their personal stories with us. A young boy spoke about hunting with his Grandpa and rubbing down with cedar boughs before they hunt to camouflage their scent from the animals. Another student shared a story about the juniper bush and its 'job' as the hider of the meat. He said after they get a deer, they will tuck it under the juniper bush until they are ready to transport it back home. The smell of the juniper camouflages the smell of the dead animal. There were many other stories of medicines, making baskets and eating sap from certain trees. We are so lucky to have met students whose lives are so connected to the forests.



Forest Educator, Susan Bondar, speaks to students in the forest education van.

See a video clip of the forest education van presentation in the Gold Trail district on Cayoosh Elementary's website video list. Highlight, "Discover the Forestry Van" at the link: <http://www.cayooshkidz.net/videos.html>

Cariboo Forest Education Highlights

Al Menduk (Forest Educator)

Cariboo forest educator, Al Menduk visited a number of elementary classrooms in his area during the early part of 2009, presenting the Gr. 3 and 5 forest education units, "Community Development- the History of Logging" and "Our Living Resource- the Forest". As well, he worked to develop local information and resources to accompany these kits, incorporating the history of logging in the Cariboo region, along with additional supplementary resource materials for use in the delivery of the Gr. 3 and 5 kits, to make them more relevant to local students and teachers. The newly-updated resource materials were distributed to all elementary schools in School District 27 during the school year.



Gavin Lake Forest Education Society

This year, Cariboo Forest Education again provided financial support towards the delivery of the Grade 6 Forest Education program at Gavin Lake Camp.

The Gavin Lake Forest Education Society (GLFES) began in 1996 and averages two thousand visitors each year, promoting outdoor education and an understanding of the complexities of life in the forests. Gavin Lake Camp provides a first-class outdoor education facility for elementary school children in the Cariboo-Chilcotin, with most of the school programs at the camp developed for the Gr. 6 level. In gearing the education material to one grade, this allows the program to reach the greatest number of children possible from two different school districts and three local communities.



Cariboo Forester John Stace-Smith with Gr. 6 students on a winter trek on the Forestry Decision Trail at Gavin Lake camp.

Each year, about 750 grade 6 children from Quesnel, 100 Mile House, and Williams Lake have the opportunity to attend a 3-day sponsored, curriculum-based adventure, with programs alternating from year to year to accommodate repeat visitors from the split classes that are common in our region. The majority of the students come out in the fall, at the beginning of the school year, with smaller sessions operating in the summer and winter. Activities focus on topics such as tree planting and ID, rainbow trout ecology, orienteering, canoeing and archery, watershed health, bark beetles and endangered species.

For more information about the Gavin Lake Forest Education Society and its programs, go to: <http://www.forestry.ubc.ca/resfor/afrf/GLFES/index.html>

COFI South Forest Education

Debbie Bazett (Forest Educator)

Logging Book Donation Made to Southern Interior Elementary Schools

Several hundred copies of the new forestry book, "The Logger's Alphabet", were purchased by COFI South Forest Education and have been distributed to all elementary school libraries in the Southern Interior.



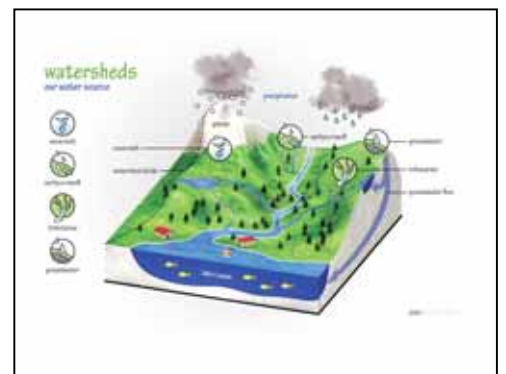
Author Terrienne Hawkings at the ILA 2009 Tradeshow and AGM in Vernon with her new "Logger's Alphabet" books.

The new book targets middle elementary students and was written by teacher Terrienne Hawkings about her family's logging operation in the Kamloops Forest District. With its alphabetized text and its close-up photos of the big machines used in the forest industry, it will be sure to provide lots of visual appeal, as well as being informative!! **(ED NOTE: For further information about ordering, contact Terrienne at: thawkings@sd73.bc.ca or call 250-579-0229)**

Also purchased by COFI South Forest Education this year were sets of elementary level forest education books for each Southern Interior forest education zone. These book sets were donated to the school district resource centers and will be available for teachers for use in their classrooms.

Forestry Week 2009- "The Importance of Our Community Watersheds"

This year's **Forestry Week 2009** lesson, "**The Importance of our Community Watersheds**", was successfully presented to approximately 3800 students by thirty volunteer forest professionals at elementary



schools around the Thompson Forest Education zone. The watershed lesson presentation was developed as a joint project by Thompson, Okanagan/Columbia and COFI forest educators and will be posted on the Learn Forestry website for teachers to access for use in their classrooms.

A new watershed poster developed by COFI South Forest Education as a visual resource to accompany the lesson will be available on the Learn Forestry site for downloading, as well as being on display with the Interior Logging Association's forest education van resources.

(To view or download this year's Forestry Week 2009 lesson package and/or the new watershed poster, check out the Learn Forestry site at www.learnforestry.com under Lesson Plans- Forestry Week.)

Forest Education Van Visits Family Environment Day

COFI South Forest Education hosted the Interior Logging Association's forest education van in early April at Family Environment Day in Kelowna, assisted by Robert Bazett from Tolko Industries. The perfect weather brought out several hundred parents and children, many of whom visited the forest education van booth to see the display, collect handouts, pick up a seedling (courtesy of the Kamloops Woodlot Society) and tour the forest education van.



Tolko Forester, Bob Bazett, talks to young visitors about forest education resources on display at Family Environment Day in Kelowna.

COFI South Forest Education has overseen the development of some new resources for the forest education van this year. A watershed poster was created for Forestry Week 2009 school presentations and is now on display in the forest education van, along with some new forest education posters and a new pictorial series on forests and water for the van's interior display.



Environmental Mind Grind 2009 May Playoffs Award Winning Teams Media Release

Nine teams were rewarded for their environmental smarts at the 10th annual Terasen Gas Environmental Mind Grind B.C. Championships in May. A total of 14 high school, six middle school and nine elementary school teams from Kamloops, Nanaimo, the Shuswap and the North, Central and South Okanagan faced off at the Creekside Community Theater in Lake Country to test their knowledge about all things green.

With hundreds of parents, friends and fellow students cheering them on, **Home Learners of Penticton** won the hotly contested Elementary School Division and \$1,000 for their school. Skaha Lake Middle School, also from Penticton, placed second.

Okanagan Mission Secondary School from Kelowna won the coveted first place in the Middle School category. **Skaha Lake Middle School** placed second after playing several tightly-contested games.

The "Most Sportsmanlike" \$100 prize was awarded to **Skaha Lake Middle School** in both elementary and middle school categories.

Competition was fierce in the high school category, as teams competed for \$1,000 bursaries per team member, courtesy of Terasen Gas. After a long battle, **Team 2 from Rutland Secondary School** in Kelowna took home first prize. **Okanagan Mission Secondary School** also from Kelowna placed second, with each team member winning a \$300 bursary. Chase Secondary won for the Most Sportsman-like team.

"All the games were really close and fast-paced," says Tracy Guidi, an Environmental Technician from the City of Kelowna and one of the organizers. "The games were exciting to watch, but probably most amazing was the amount of environmental information these kids learned. I think all the adults watching the games were in awe."

The Environmental Mind Grind contest helps students learn about local environmental issues and motivates them and their families to live more sustainably.



Environmental Education 2009 partners for EMG included the City of Kelowna, Regional District of Central Okanagan, City of Kamloops, Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen and the North Okanagan Regional District. Proud sponsors included Terasen Gas, FortisBC, Council of Forest Industries, OK Environmental Waste Systems, ProductCare, Tetra Pak and Battery Doctors.)

COFI North Forest Education

Chris Lear (Forest Education Manager)

Student Interest in Forestry Careers Remains High

If the number of students participating in recently held forestry career awareness programs hosted by COFI northern operations forest education program is any indication of the interest in forestry careers, then attracting the next generation of workers to the forest sector when it recovers from the current economic downturn should not be a problem.

Whether we are talking about careers in the trades and technologies, as harvesting equipment operators or as professional foresters, forest technologists or other resource management professionals, high school students are very interested in learning about today's and future career opportunities.

Three recently held career awareness programs, two in Fort St John looking at trades and technologies in Canfor's sawmill and harvesting equipment operators at a logging site, and one program in Prince George highlighting post-secondary resource management programs at the College of New Caledonia and UNBC were not only completely filled with students, but students had to be turned away for a lack of program space.

"Students are fully aware of the difficulties facing BC's forest industry, but they are looking past the current situation to where they see the industry rebounding and see themselves as journeymen millwrights, feller-buncher operators or professional foresters. You might call this youthful enthusiasm, but I call this youthful optimism," notes Chris Lear, Manager Forest Education, COFI Northern Operations. "These are the next generation of workers ready to train for tomorrow's careers."



Students from throughout School District 60 (Peace River North) participating in harvesting equipment operator's careers program.



Students and teachers from Quesnel, Vanderhoof and Prince George join delegates at the ABCFP's ExpoFor AGM as part of program looking at post secondary resource management programs at CNC and UNBC.

For more information on these and other forest education programs, please contact:

*Chris Lear, Manager Forest Education, COFI Northern Operations
(250) 614-4351 / e-mail lear@cofi.org or go to <http://www.forest-education.info>*

Students Tour Dream Home Canada Dan Broderick, Career Programs, SD 28

From March 11 to March 24, students and teachers from The Quesnel School District travelled to Shanghai as part of a two-week long cultural exchange. One of the highlights of their visit was the opportunity to visit the Council of Forest Industries (COFI) Dream Home Canada project.

Dream House Canada is a show home and display centre designed to highlight the properties and beauty of building with wood. It is one of the strategies to promote the use of B.C. wood products in new markets. The students were really impressed by the structure itself and the hospitality they received during their visit.

They left the site with a feeling of pride in the scope of Canadian technology and the versatility of B.C. forest products. Many thanks go to Chris Lear (Prince George) and the rest of the COFI staff at home and abroad for facilitating the visit.



Dan Broderick
Career Programs, Quesnel Secondary School
School District No 28 (Quesnel)

CNC's New Natural Resources & Environmental Technology Program

Student applications for the College of New Caledonia's Natural Resources and Environmental Technology Diploma in Prince George are way up over previous years, according to the latest report from the Registrar. There are already 25 applicants for the 22 spots in the College of New Caledonia's new program, which will give students career opportunities in forestry, mining, oil and gas and other outdoor professions.

"We are very pleased to see so many applicants for this exciting program," said CNC instructor Ed Morrice. "It's only March and we already have great interest in the program, which begins in September." Morrice said there is still room for qualified applicants, who should register as soon as possible at www.cnc.bc.ca/CNC_Programs/NRETech.htm



Morrice added the interest is fired by the program changes at CNC as well as by the traction that COFI's Northern Operations Forest Education Program is getting with high school students and others. "The program has been well received by industry and prospective students", Morrice said.

CNC repurposed its traditional forestry program by moving the focus from forestry to the broader spectrum of natural resources. Graduates will still be fully functional forest technologists having learned about operations, silviculture, forest protection and measurements. But they will acquire a much broader suite of skills and knowledge applicable to the range of natural resource sectors operating in northern BC.

"If you know someone who would suit this program because they like the outdoors and want a meaningful career involved in responsible management of the environment, then encourage them to apply and register now," Morrice said. "Almost all graduates of the Forest Resource Technology program are employed now and job postings are still going up."

For more information on this program, please contact:

Ed Morrice, R.P.F.- Natural Resources & Environmental Technology,
College of New Caledonia, Prince George, BC
Phone: (250)562-2131 local 5215
Fax: (250)561-5816

Expanding Our Roots

BC Forest Education Summer Camps

Silver Lake Forest Education Society

Silver Lake Forestry Center holds week long youth summer camps beginning July 5, with the last session beginning August 23. Camps are aimed at various age groups from 7- 12, 10-14 and 13-16.

www.silverlakekidscamp.com

Evans Lake Forest Education Center

For more info:

www.evanslake.com

Blue Lake Forest Education Society

For more info:

www.bluelakecentre.com



BCIT Renewable Resources Students Use Wilderness Survival Skills (How to deal with an unplanned night in the forest)

Kelly Hatfull- BCIT Renewable Resources Instructor

For the past 2 years, all Renewable Resources students have been learning a new series of courses to ensure they are ready for the physical and safety skill set of working in the back country.

They receive training in first aid ticket (OFA Level 1, plus packaging and transportation), 4x4 training, certification in ATV riding, small boat operations, and safe chainsaw operations. But on their last day of first year studies, they are in a class that lasts for a straight 24 hours, called 'Wilderness Survival.'



The students can only bring what they would normally wear or carry while working in the forest, including their cruiser's vest, compass, clinometer, notebook, hard hat and regular safety gear (first aid kit, flashlight, matches, whistle and a knife). BCIT provides a space blanket, glow stick, candle, small folding saw, and waterproof matches. The only food allowed is their lunch.

The course is designed and guided by proven sources of information including SAS (Special Air Services), a British commando training group that trains their troops and clients for survival anywhere on the planet, and the BC Search and Rescue (SAR) that is taught to all volunteer members of Search and Rescue groups around BC guided by PEP (Provincial Emergency Program). Kelly Hatfull, a BCIT instructor for 8 years and a Search Manager / SAR Instructor of the Sunshine Coast Search & Rescue for 23 years designed and teaches the wilderness course along with Jonathan Smyth, a BCIT instructor and Boy Scout leader for over 20 years.

The Wilderness Survival course is designed to focus on the priorities in an emergency wilderness situation. First aid is 80% of wilderness survival. If you are healthy and have the right training, right attitude and the right equipment, the 24-hour course gives the students the confidence to stay calm and focus on the priorities, meaning a vast improvement on survival probability.



The students are taught the theory and background to wilderness survival, work on survival scenarios and then observe shelter building and fire starting. Then they are divided into 2-person teams, given a separate location in the forest to decide their priorities and prepare for the night.

The course takes place at the BCIT Forest Society Woodlot in Maple Ridge in a second growth forest stand, so the students make use of the dead wood and green branches on the forest floor to build their shelter and collect firewood.

Safety is the #1 priority for the students and staff in this course, so an emergency evacuation plan is in place and students must hang any food in a tree, so as not to draw wildlife into their shelters. Fires are only allowed if the forest fire hazard is low, which so far has not been an issue for late April!



The students really enjoy the wilderness experience and for many, this is their first time building a shelter or a camp fire by themselves, and even their first sleep outside under the stars. We've managed to hold the sessions on dry nights so far, but it has gone below freezing on one night. However, the students know that there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing.

The morning after involves a debriefing to discuss what they would do differently; for example shelter and fire location, or the

thickness of their green bedding (usually not thick enough). A cup of something hot to drink and a muffin has never been more appreciated than that next morning, after they have totally deconstructed their shelter and the fire pits have been cold trailed.

One student came back to Kelly last year to share her story of nearly having to spend an unplanned night in the forest, but she felt very calm because of her training experience with BCIT and the knowledge that she always carries emergency supplies with her just in case. And that is the primary purpose of the wilderness survival course: to give our students a positive, confidence-building experience that they can build on. That single comment makes all the effort very worthwhile for the instructors and future employees.

Many of our BCIT students will be working throughout BC, and quite a few have expressed interest in joining the local Search and Rescue volunteer group to help their new communities. In fact, BCIT is working to get credit for our Renewable Resources students as Basic Search and Rescue certification, since we cover the skill sets in our 2-year Diploma programs.

BCIT's motto of 'Job Ready Skills' is very evident with courses such as the 24-hour Wilderness Survival, but more importantly, it may save lives and contribute to our local communities as well-trained volunteers.

The Shifting Landscape- *Selkirk College Leads the Way in Adapting to the Future Forest* Deborah Greaves (for the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations)

It's a given that BC's forests are changing, with dramatic effects on the forest industry and economy of the province. But what now for our trademark forests and this once mighty industry? What's in the future for people who wish for a forestry career?



Kootenay-based Selkirk College's forestry program has changed to reflect the current reality. It is now named the School of Renewable Resources. The Dean of Selkirk College, Angus Graeme, is a Registered Professional Forester. He believes BC must come to grips quickly with the need to adopt a radically different approach to the management of BC's forests. But he also believes that

skilled forestry workers are needed more than ever.

“There will always be a need for technical forestry,” Graeme said. “There’s a huge task in front of us now, with restructuring and strategic planning for the future of the forest sector. It won’t be easy without a strong body of professionals.”

The School of Renewable Resources is committed to providing the most flexible, nationally accredited environmental science programming in Canada. “Selkirk College can contribute a well prepared, technically proficient workforce who’ll have an eye to the future,” Graeme said.

In addition to its academic and technical programs, Selkirk College also has an active and licensed woodlot. The Selkirk College woodlot is a working forest and an outdoor classroom that takes students outside for 50 to 60 per cent of their educational time. They take ownership of the work they carry out there, Graeme said.

The School of Renewable Resources has been established in response to the fact that in the very near future, forest management will be about much more than trees. “Within our professional lifespans trees will have other values. Carbon capture and water will be as important as forestry. The political will of the people of BC will decide whether we want to go back.”

According to Graeme, changes in the forest must lead to changes in the way human beings manage it. We have to adapt the way we think of and manage BC’s natural resources. The new reality is here, and for the future’s sake, we can’t afford to ignore it.

2009 Wood WORKS! BC/Canadian Wood Council Host Wood Catapult Competition Submitted by Linda Shauer (Wood WORKS! BC)

Nine post-secondary teams arrived early Saturday morning, March 28th, at the Whit-Matthews sports field (UBC) for the launching of the third annual Wood Catapult Competition hosted by Wood WORKS! BC, an initiative of the Canadian Wood Council. The teams were from UBC, BCIT, North Island College and Okanagan College. Each team had their machine weighed in and evaluated before setting up on the field, and this year no teams were penalized for exceeding the weight limit (70 kilograms).



Though the weather was damp and cold, the teams were not deterred from giving very thorough and individualized presentations to their attentive audience composed of competing teams, WW staff and three judges from the prize sponsoring associations (ASTTBC, APEG and AIBC). The 15 minute presentations were the teams’ opportunity to share what they had learned throughout the designing and building process of their siege engine, giving particular emphasis to the properties of wood. They also explained how they adhered to the strict guidelines of the competition, with respect to making their propulsion materials all wood and only using the limited amount of non-wood products.

After lunch the performance trials started- the real highlight of the Wood Catapult Competition. Many spectators arrived, braving the weather, to cheer on their favorite team. The performance trials are the true test of whether teams designed their machine with an understanding of the properties of wood. Due to rainy conditions, many teams learned first-hand how moisture can damage wood. Unexpected swelling of wood components resulted in teams frantically sanding down precision made parts so they would slide or turn as designed. Other failures, such as dissolving glue and stressed weight axels or level arms, took their toll as the day progressed. What worked in theory was soon found not to work in practice, as the teams struggled to zero in on hitting the 20, 30 and 45 meter targets before using the remainder of their 30 minute time to accumulate as many points as possible. After the half hour, teams were also given the chance to vie for the prestigious longest shot of the day.

The winners of the 2009 Wood Catapult Competition were:		
Best Report:	Hurlinballs- Okanagan College	91/100
Best Presentation:	P.A.N.I.C. – North Island College	81.3/100
Team Spirit:	Knotty Engineers- BCIT	
Longest Distance:	P.A.N.I.C. – North Island College	85 meters
Third Place Overall:	Knotty Engineers- BCIT	537.6 points
Second Place Overall:	Blind Walruses- UBC	565.4 points
First Place Overall:	Hurlinballs- Okanagan College	1809 points

Special thanks goes to the Brad Walton (ASTTBC), Omar Ishkintana (APEG) and Scott Kemp (AIBC) who represented their respective associations by judging this all day event and by awarding the prize money of \$1500, \$1000 and \$500 to the top three teams.

What is the BC Festival of Forestry? (reprinted from the BC Festival of Forestry website)

The BC Festival of Forestry is a non-profit organization committed to providing quality professional development experiences for school teachers.

They run tours twice a year, taking 20 Lower Mainland and Victoria area teachers to rural communities in BC. The tours provide an interactive learning experience to enhance teachers' understanding of the complexities of sustainable forest management issues, and methods to integrate information into their classes.

Teachers have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a resource-based community and interact with the people most connected to resource issues. Tours include hikes in various forest ecosystems, visits to active forest management areas, protected areas, and tours of processing facilities. They may also include mini-courses on tree identification, wildlife habitat issues, water quality and other riparian considerations in forest management, soil characteristics, ecosystem management, conservation and preservation of sensitive and special areas of the forest, as well



as the social and economic values we gain from the forest. Presenters on each tour represent a wide range of interest areas, providing a clear balance of perspectives.

In March, the most recent tour saw a group of teachers travelling to the Sunshine Coast, sponsored by the Sunshine Coast Community Forest. There they learned to identify trees, were shown different soil characteristics and heard about wildlife habitat, water quality issues, ecosystem management, conservation and preservation of vulnerable areas and the social and economic values gained through forestry.

To find out more about the Festival of Forestry and its next Teacher Tour, go to: <http://www.festivalofforestry.org/Welcome.html>

BC Government Supports Renewal of Junior Forest Wardens

Submitted by Elizabeth Brown- Provincial Coordinator, BC Junior Forest Wardens

THE JUNIOR FOREST WARDENS HAVE BUILT THEIR PROGRAMS FOUNDATION USING THE FOUR COMPONENTS OF: FORESTRY – ECOLOGY – OUTDOOR SKILLS – LEADERSHIP

Junior Forest Wardens works to ensure sustainability of our forests for future generations. Born in the 1930's, Junior Forest Wardens is considered to be the first environmental youth movement in BC. Now, along with the assistance and backing from our provincial government we can look forward to providing a stronger knowledge and appreciation for our environment.



Junior Forest Wardens- who can join and what does the program offer?

Learn wilderness survival techniques, enjoy canoeing, hiking, kayaking, go camping.
Learn to climb a rock bluff, shoot a bow, rappel on a rope, plant a tree!

The Junior Forest Wardens program is a rewarding non-profit, outdoor-oriented experience designed to develop an awareness, appreciation and respect for our natural environment. It is an exciting and educational opportunity for young people and their families to have fun, develop skills, and get educated in the many and diverse aspects of forests.

To prepare for the adventures of Junior Forest Wardens, education is provided. Such as: wilderness skills development, first aid, trip planning and survival. To give a greater appreciation of the natural resources while outdoors, Wardens are also taught about tree, plant and animal identification, soil types, weather and water, resource management, threats to the environment and much more.



Young people between the ages of 6 – 18 can join a local club, and enjoy age specific programming in one of the four appropriate age classes. Parents are encouraged to participate with their children, in any aspect of the club program; from providing their expertise in a leadership or resource role, parent supervision, to learning right along side of their kids.

Our History

During the 1920's, "Forest and Outdoors" magazines, an official publication of the Canadian Forestry Association, included a regular section called "Young Canadians", devoted entirely to the activities, interests, and education of boys and girls. The magazine was widely read and very popular, especially among the young people of British Columbia.

In 1929, a story was published in this section that was to have an effect upon its readers - and upon history - far beyond anything its author could have expected. The story was set at Smug Cove on Bowen Island, and concerned a



group of boys, friends of the local ranger, who got together to form a club. It tells how they discovered a fire in the bush, reported it to the ranger, and helped him put out the fire.

The response to this story was incredible. Boys from all parts of the province wrote into the author inquiring about joining the club or forming one like it. Somewhat overwhelmed by this reaction, the local manager of the CFA office, Charles Wilkinson, and his associates, looked at each other and said "Why not?"

So the Warden Movement was born. Initially however, the boys were called the Junior Fire Rangers. For each 100 students in a given community, one boy was selected to be a ranger, a representative of the CF, in consultation with the school principal. The boy selected was to act as a fire prevention officer, whose special duty was to inform other students concerning fire laws in

particular, and forest conservation in general.

In 1930, 300 boys were appointed. As the boys were concerned mainly with the forests, and to avoid confusion with municipal fire departments, it was decided in 1931 to change the name from Junior Fire Rangers to Junior Forest Wardens. In 1935, the "red shirt" uniform was chosen.

For many years, the movement stayed primarily on an individual basis. There were no clubs (or if you like, just one big club). It wasn't until 1936, or thereabouts,, that actual clubs were formed. Here again, the step was initiated by the young people themselves. This was no planned organization, the groups like "Topsy", just grew - spontaneously and eagerly. The first such clubs were in the Vancouver Region because that was where the Wardens were the most concentrated. There being no established training program, the clubs defined their own areas of study. They even invented their own names. The "Conservation Corps" - which specialized in forestry, was one such early club. The "League of Conservationists" was another - specializing in w i l d l i f e s t u d y .

With the formation of clubs came a demand for more training. Again, the impetus came from the young people, and not their supervisors. They wanted a deeper knowledge of our forest and environment. The memo packages sent from Headquarters began to include progressively more and more resource material on forests and forest lands, and eventually - in accordance with specific suggestions from South Burnaby's Conservation Corps - gave way to a graded training manual with examination and badges for tests successfully passed.

The war effected the Warden movement greatly, of course. Many older boys left to serve overseas. The younger ones helped the war effort by selling bonds and stamps and conducting scrap metal drives. In 1944, girls also started becoming involved in the program, and were then known as Girl Forest Guards. It wasn't until 1974 when the clubs became co-ed that all were known as the Junior Forest Wardens .

Get Outdoors – Get Involved- Volunteer!!

Providing these awesome activities to our youth requires volunteers - being a JFW volunteer has tremendous rewards. You get to see young people develop skills and gain confidence in front of your eyes. From sleeping under a lean-to for the first time, to rappelling down a rock bluff; **it is you that could make this happen.** At JFW, we make use of the great facilities we have out our backdoors and throughout our country.



Volunteers are people from every walk of life, all ages and stages. What they have in common is the desire to make a difference in the youth of their community as well as in their own life. This vital role presents the opportunity for JFW to be an activity for the whole family and has the secondary benefit of YOU becoming more involved and knowledgeable about our environment.

Whatever your background, Junior Forest Wardens wants to hear from you. You can contribute as much or as little time as you wish. Wardens do a huge range of work; the help offered is always greatly valued!



Provincial Coordinator, BC Junior Forest Wardens
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Canadian Women in Timber Celebrate Twenty Years in BC!! (CWIT website reprint)

Canadian Women in Timber began in 1989 and is truly a grassroots organization. Members are all volunteers and are committed to making a positive difference. Most members have a connection to the forest industry and are the first to experience the social and economic consequences of forest land use.

CWIT support educational activities to enhance the public's understanding of BC's forest resources and sustainable management. Their aim is to foster an interest and a passion for the natural science of forestry; management and operations/harvesting.



Since their inception in 1989, they have provided the public with a balanced view of forest land use issues. They work with allies and partners, such as industry associations, forest and wood companies and educational institutions.

The CWIT created Forest Awareness Day, held annually on the first Wednesday in October, to generate public awareness of the sector. Some branches have created programs for classroom presentations and provide bursaries to students to further their education in forest-related programs or forest industry training.

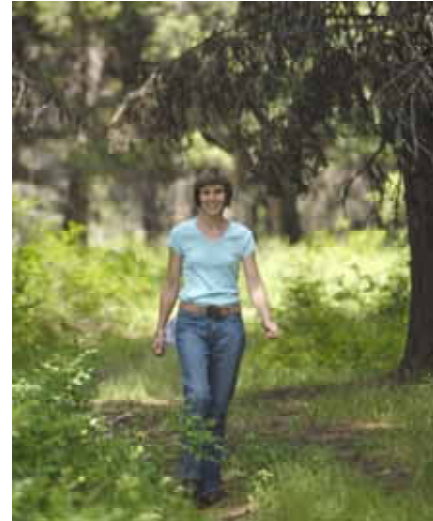
Many teachers who work with young people know very little about forestry and how the science of the forest could fit into their curriculum. The CWIT branches work in local communities to build this awareness, and coach teachers in how they might modify or adapt their class work accordingly.

The Canadian Women in Timber celebrate their 20th anniversary this year, with their AGM to be held on October 15 & 16 in Vernon at the Predator Ridge Resort. A wine and cheese reception will take place on Thursday evening, with the AGM on Friday, followed by a luncheon. A panel discussion, with moderator, Mike Apsey, will be featured on the future of the forest industry. For more information about the AGM event, see www.canadianwomenintimber.com.

Stewards of the Forest -

Woodlot licensees take land management responsibility to heart
by Deborah Greaves for the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations

"I wonder if the people who hike or ride their horses or ATVs through our forest ever think of the people who are responsible for that terrain and what that entails," says Lisa Marak, a Kelowna mother of two and second generation woodlot owner. "I certainly didn't until I returned home to Kelowna with my family after living in Vancouver for 25 years and took over the management of our family's woodlot license."



Woodlot licensees tend many of the forests near towns and communities that people enjoy driving through, looking out their window at or recreating in, Marak says.

Modern day woodlot licensees, of which there are more than 800 in BC, have a challenging job — to manage for healthy forests, harvest timber, establish a new forest where they harvested, protect water, wildlife, recreation and cultural heritage resources, and maintain access to Crown forest land.

*Lisa Marak, Communications
Coordinator for the BC
Federation of BC Woodlot
Associations.*

Most woodlot licensees live near the land they are licensed to manage so they have a personal attachment to the Crown forest they manage. They develop strong bonds with their neighbours, and are part of the community.

Most woodlots are licensed to families, and many of those families care for the land for decades, even generations. They take a long-term, hands-on approach to forest management. In order to meet government standards, they often spend thousands of dollars on management plans that require Ministry of Forests and Range approval. Profit comes in long after the additional costs of each harvest.

While some families harvest trees every year, others like the Maraks harvest once every five years, using the services of a professional logger. The wood is usually harvested in small, carefully-designed sections called cut blocks.

At a slow and sustainable rate, it takes up to 100 years to complete a harvesting cycle, keeping in mind that not all areas are harvested. Some parcels of land are designated not to be harvested in order to protect unique values such as wildlife, old growth attributes and water quality.

"We manage Crown forest land, but it's land that is also part of the urban interface, which

impacts communities," says Marak. "Much like farmers, we're stewards of the land on behalf of the larger community."

WaterEDWest Conference 2009: *A Confluence of Ideas*

September 10-13, 2009 The Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta



Inspire, Educate and Motivate!

Join us in beautiful Banff for this three-day conference. WaterEDWest™ 2009 is a forum to share successes, discuss challenges, and build a water education network designed to enhance formal and public water education across western Canada. Conference themes include: best practices in water education; current water issues and their implications in education; challenges and opportunities in water education and outreach; motivating public participation in water issues; creating a culture of conservation and change.

For more information, visit the website or contact Jason Toner at:

conference@wateredwest.ca.

Council of Forest Industries Post-Secondary Education Legacy Scholarships

For the last two years, the Council of Forest Industries Annual AGM and Convention has funded post-secondary education scholarships intended to encourage the next generation of leaders to choose a professional, technical or trades career in the forest sector.



Ten \$1,000 scholarships are again available for 2009 to qualifying students planning to attend for the first time any one of the ten post-secondary educational institutions in BC's Interior and enrolling in professional, technical or trades studies leading to a career in the forest sector.

For more information, contact:

- **Chris Lear, Forest Education Manager**
COFI- Prince George Office
E-mail at: lear@cofi.org
Phone: (250) 564-5136
- **Debbie Bazett, Forest Educator**
COFI- Kelowna Office
E-mail at bazett@cofi.org
Phone: (250) 860-9663



Scholarship forms can be downloaded from the Council of Forest Industries website at: <http://forest-education.info/scholarships/legacy.html>

Federation of BC Woodlot Associations- Student Scholarships

The FBCWA awards a **\$1,000 scholarship** each year to a student related to a woodlot licensee and/ or a private forest land owner and is attending post-secondary education in a forestry related area of study. This past year's recipient was Jordan Benner of Woodlot 1897, located on Quadra Island. He is doing a Master's degree in resource management and environmental management (forest ecology) at Simon Fraser University, and has been involved in the family woodlot since childhood.

*For more information about these scholarships, see the Federation of BC Woodlot Association site:
<http://www.woodlot.bc.ca/membersadmin.html#scholarships>*

Interior Logging Association Student Scholarships

Each year, four scholarships totaling \$5000 are offered through the Interior Logging Association's Scholarship Program. The scholarships are open to graduating secondary students, or students already enrolled in college or university in any discipline, who are immediate relatives of ILA members or employees of member companies. The Forestry Scholarship is open to any graduating student in the ILA's operating area. Candidates were to be enrolled in a full-time program at an accredited Canadian college, university or institute of technology.

*Members or non-members of the Interior Logging Association with a family member or relative attending a college or university this year may apply.
Applications close July 31, 2007.*

The following scholarships are offered:

- **\$2,000.00 FORESTRY SCHOLARSHIP:** Open to any graduating student in the ILA's operating area enrolling in full time studies in a forestry related discipline at a Canadian College or University or Vocational School.
- **\$1,000.00 MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP:** Open to graduating secondary school students or students already enrolled in college or university in any discipline who are immediate relatives of ILA members and employees of member companies. Candidates must be enrolling in a full time program at an accredited Canadian College, University or Institute of Technology.
- **\$1,000.00 MEMBER TRADES SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP:** Open to students of an ILA member enrolling in a full time course at a British Columbia Trades School in Heavy

Duty Mechanics, Professional Truck Driving or Heavy Duty Machine Operators Course, Welding Course or similar training program that leads to employment within the logging industry.

- **\$1,000.00 ASSOCIATES SCHOLARSHIP:** Open to graduating secondary school students who are immediate relatives of an ILA member or member company employees. This scholarship is awarded to the ILA affiliated applicant with the highest academic standard enrolling in a Canadian College, University or Technical School as a full time student in a Business Administration discipline.

Applications postmarked later than July 31 will not be considered. Scholarships are awarded as soon as possible after the closing date of July 31 each year. Payment will be made upon confirmation of registration in a full-time program of studies. In the event that no candidate has reached an acceptable standard in any or all scholarship categories, the scholarship committee may elect not to make an award. They may also, at their discretion, make lesser awards to more than one candidate in a category.

For more information or to access a copy of the application form, go to the Interior Logging Association website:

<http://www.interiorlogging.org/scholarship.php>

Post-Secondary Program Updates- BCIT & College of New Caledonia (reprinted from the ABCFP's *Increment*-June 15/09)

College of New Caledonia

The College of New Caledonia is launching a substantially revised forest resource technology program in the fall of 2009. This offering will be called [Natural Resources and Environmental Technology \(NRET\)](#). It will still have its core of forestry courses including measurements, forest health, silviculture and operations along with support courses like soils, silvics, ecology, English, math and others.

However, to reflect the broader interests of British Columbians and the renewed development of a broad spectrum of natural resources in central and northern BC, courses like forest policy have been broadened to include these other natural resource sectors. Therefore, new course additions include birds and mammals, earth sciences, traditional plant uses, First Nations studies and even a bit of recreation/tourism. A primary goal in the restructuring was that graduates would still be eligible to register with the ABCFP as forest technologists, that they would continue to be valued assets for the forest sector and they would continue to acquire university transfer credits.

The response to the change from applicants has been very positive. Currently, there are 35 applicants for 22 seats. This is a substantial increase in interest that we fully expect to sustain the new NRET program at the College of New Caledonia.

British Columbia Institute of Technology

BCIT forestry had run for 42 years before it was suspended in 2007. The school welcomed the chance to renew the program in a modern framework with new courses that address what industry is looking for in graduates. The new program is called Sustainable Resource Management and has two diploma options for students.

After a first year of common study, students can select the [Forest Management](#) option that meets all the requirements for becoming an RFT or they can take the [Environmental and Community Planning](#) option with more of a community and peri-urban focus on land management. Both

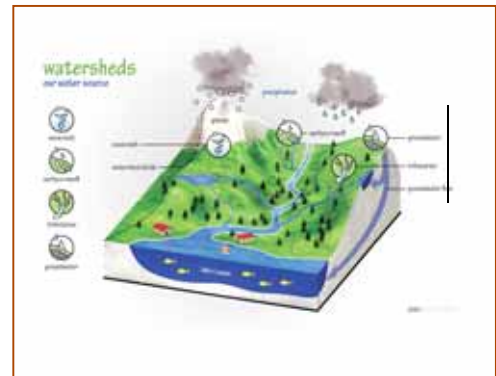
options include the ability for students to customize their programs with second-year electives. Students can also choose to just complete the first year which gives them a [Certificate of Technology in Natural Resources](#) and many students with allied science degrees take this option in order to gain field experience.

BCIT's program is unique in that it is part time. While it is still possible to complete the diploma in two years, it is designed so that working people have the option to take a lighter load each semester and take three or more years to finish. The part-time format is also advantageous for natural resources professionals wishing to only take specific courses for continuing education credits. This program started in September 2008 and currently has 21 students, with a full roster of 32 students expected for the September 2009 intake.

Forest Education Resources

◆ Available soon on the Learn Forestry Website (www.learnforestry.com):

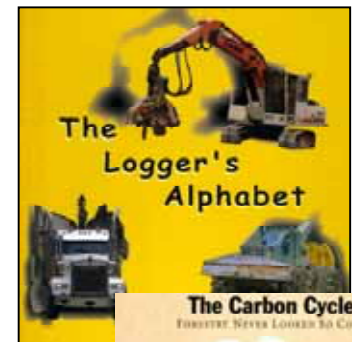
- **2009 Forestry Week Lesson "The Importance of our Community Watersheds"** – lessons and resources under "Lesson plans- Forestry Week")
- A new "**Watershed**" poster was developed by COFI South Forest Education to accompany the 2009 Forestry Week lesson above. To download a copy, go to the Learn Forestry website, and follow the links above.



◆ Feature Books:

- **The Logger's Alphabet** by Terrienne Hawkings
Self-published (2009)

From A-Z, this BC-based book covers many aspects of forest harvesting, from skidders and excavators to reforestation and safety. Suitable for mid-elementary grades with great close-up photos of big machines sure to catch students' interest!!



Copies of the book were distributed this spring to all Southern Interior elementary schools, courtesy of the Council of Forest Industries (Southern Operations) Forest Education. *(For further information, contact Terrienne at: thawkings@sd73.bc.ca)*

◆ Teacher Resources

- <http://www.calforests.org/pdf/carbon-poster.pdf> "The Carbon Cycle" poster from the **California Forest Foundation**, shows the forestry link to the cycle, with carbon released through fires, carbon absorbed by our growing forests and carbon that remains stored in wood products.
- <http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/sci/> **PBS's Zoom Science** activity website. Includes "Biome in a Baggie", a growing experiment creating a micro-environment.
- <http://www.cln.org/themes/water.html> Water activities and lessons for teaching units
- <http://sftrc.cas.psu.edu/FromWoods.html> **Penn State** forest education activities



- o http://www.floridaforest.org/teaching_tools.php **Florida Forestry Assoc.** lessons
- o http://water.usgs.gov/outreach/Posters/water_use/images/WaterUseGradeschFront.jpg **US watershed poster** showing detailed use of watersheds.
- o http://adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/posters/bc/poster_e.php Climate change poster for Southwestern BC for from **Natural Resources Canada**
- o [http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/pdf/NPS_WatershedLP/\\$File/WatershedLessonPlans.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/pdf/NPS_WatershedLP/$File/WatershedLessonPlans.pdf?OpenElement) Watershed lesson plans

◆ **Teacher & Student Web Links:**

- o www.learnforestry.com **Learn Forestry Website** Forest Education lessons, links & resource materials, videos, bibliographies, teacher kits and more.
- o www.forest-education.info **Council of Forest Industries Forest Education** This newly- updated forest education website provides info on forestry terms and facts, careers, virtual tours and resources, etc. Find out what presentations and materials are available from BC's Northern Interior forest educator, if you teach in that region!!
- o <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/documents/treebook/> **Ministry of Forests & Range** site- "The Treebook"- useful for BC tree ID & forest ecosystem research.
- o <http://science.howstuffworks.com/wildfire.htm> **How Stuff Works**-lots of info about how things work, including all about wildfire
- o <http://www.treecanada.ca/site/?page=home&lang=en> **Tree Canada's** resource info
- o <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/resources-natural/wildlife/after-fire/index.htm> **Life After Fire**- an interactive website for students
- o <http://www.nrcan-nrcan.gc.ca/studelev/index-eng.php> **Natural Resources Canada** student and teacher info under "Forests" or "Environment" headings.

Upcoming Events

◆ **Canadian Women in Timber- 20th Anniversary Celebration & AGM**

October 15 & 16, 2009 @ Predator Ridge Resort, near Vernon, BC. Includes wine and cheese reception, AGM, luncheon and panel presentation.

For further details, check the CWIT website at:

www.canadianwomenintimber.com

◆ **Climate Change Exhibit**

Location: EECO Center
(Mission Creek Regional Park, Kelowna)
Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Thursdays until 8 p.m.)
Duration: May through August 2009



Odds and Ends

Questions or Comments

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding the Learn Forestry News, please contact Jennifer Stewart (Publisher) or Debbie Bazett (Editor) at: newsletter@learnforestry.com

Submissions for Learn Forestry Website

If you are interested in submitting forest education lesson plans or activities to the Learn Forestry website or if you would like to recommend other forest education resources or links, please forward these to Jen Stewart at: jennifer@learnforestry.com

January 2010 Newsletter

If you would like to submit one or more short articles and/or pictures highlighting events and programs occurring in your school or community for the next issue, please email the information in Word format with pictures in jpeg to: newsletter@learnforestry.com