

Pesticulars

The Professional Pest Management Association of B.C.

Why join the Professional Pest Management Association of B.C.?

Consider the member benefits

- ∞ Admission to the Annual Symposium and a copy of the proceedings, which has gained a reputation for strong agendas and interesting speakers
- ∞ An established means for communication amongst your professional peers
- ∞ Collective voice for advocating the pest management approaches you believe in: see our Mission Statement
- ∞ Your copy of *Pesticulars*, the popular PPMA newsletter, published twice a year, including the Annual Symposium proceedings
- ∞ A facility to shop your resume in case you are looking for employment
- ∞ A venue for students to talk about their research
- ∞ And ... the lowest membership fee for any professional organization ... *on the planet*

www.sfu.ca/~ppmabc/

President's Message

Todd Kabaluk, President

Serving on the Professional Pest Management Association of British Columbia Executive Committee has been a little like surfacing and then taking in a panorama. While I've always been aware of my most of my contemporaries and their work, I now have a better sense of the thread that weaves together the tapestry of pest management culture in BC...and understanding that pest management itself is a culture. Since the publication of *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson in 1962, pest management has evolved innovation, diversity, sophistication, and relevance, with these qualities not only being well represented in the profession in BC, but also ambitiously pursued with a sense of purpose.



The PPMA, in part, symbolically consolidates this profession and asserts its existence. Our presence is best recognized through the Annual General Meeting where professional work, mostly

in research, is represented in a one-day symposium. We also distribute pest management-related news several times a year in the newsletter *Pesticulars* circulated to our members. In 2008, we sought to expand the scope of influence and service of the PPMA in several ways: i) by becoming part of Simon Fraser University's Department of Biological Sciences Seminar Series and sponsoring a seminar (the 'PPMA-sponsored seminar') by a reputed pest management professional. This years' invited

speaker was Dr. Jenny Cory, the Thelma Finlayson Chair in Biocontrol at SFU (see article in this newsletter); ii) by public education - the PPMA is in the process of creating a yearly public lecture to provide information to the public on pest management themes not normally covered in news media; and iii) offering credits for pesticide recertification associated

with attending specific seminars hosted by the PPMA. We are currently working with the BC Ministry of Environment on this accreditation and expect the process to be in place for the 2009

Professional Pest Management Association of British Columbia

Call for submission of oral presentations
2009 Symposium

"The Evolving Pest"

Tuesday, February 17, 2009
Halpern Centre, SFU

Student Awards Presented

Submit title, authors, abstract (50 words),
and contact information by January 16, 2009

ppmabc@sfu.ca

www.sfu.ca/~ppmabc/

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AGM. And on that note, we have decided to rename the annual AGM to the 'Annual PPMA Symposium' to give it a little more recognition as a day of themed seminars. The theme of this years' symposium, by the way, is 'The Evolving Pest' in commemoration of Darwin's bicentenary and the 150th Anniversary of the publication of *Origin of Species*.

The Executive Committee of the PPMA has done a remarkable job to develop and facilitate these new ideas, as well as keep the regular business of the association moving. We have worked well together and it has been a pleasure serving with them. We are confident that the PPMA will continue in its evolution to reflect and represent the diversity of the profession, and to offer service to its members and society.

Call for nominations – Contech Award

We are seeking nominees for the Contech Award (formerly the Pherotech Award) for 'significant contributions to pest management', to be awarded at our symposium on February 17, 2009. If you would like to nominate someone, please contact ppmabc@sfu.ca.

Nomination deadline: January 16, 2009.

<http://www.sfu.ca/~ppmabc/en/pheroaward.html>

Pesticide Certificate Education Credits

The PPMA is currently working with the BC Ministry of Environment to certify our qualifying seminars for use toward Pesticide Recertification Credits. For more information on this program, see www.al.gov.bc.ca/pesticides/h_1.htm.

So far, things look promising for the PPMA and with a bit of luck, we will have the details worked out for the 2009 Symposium, and people will be able to claim the credit for attending the talks. Stay tuned.

Inaugural PPMA-Sponsored Seminar: *Trophic Cascades and Insect Pathogens* Tammy McMullan, Treasurer

As a member of the PPMA executive, we are pleased to report that the inaugural PPMA sponsored seminar, co-hosted with the Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, was a great success.

During the fall and spring semesters, the Department of Biological Sciences presents a weekly seminar (<http://www.sfu.ca/biology/events/>). On October 30, 2008, the PPMA had the opportunity to host the seminar. The Executive invited Dr. Jenny Cory to be our inaugural speaker. Dr. Cory recently joined the Department of Biological Sciences as the Thelma Finlayson Chair in Biological Control, and Director of the Master of Pest Management (MPM) program. Many PPMA members may already know Dr. Cory, as she previously held a Canada Research Chair in Molecular Ecology at Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie, and has field sites and collaborators in British Columbia.



This year's PPMA-sponsored seminar speaker, Dr. Jenny Cory (right), with Dr. Thelma Finlayson (left).

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Dr. Ron Ydenberg (Faculty Coordinator for the Departmental Seminar) welcomed the audience to the seminar and then turned the floor over to Dr. Todd Kabaluk (President of the PPMA) to formally introduce Dr. Cory to the audience. In addition to introducing Dr. Cory, Todd thanked the department for the opportunity to host the seminar, and presented a brief background about our association.

Dr. Cory's seminar, entitled "*Trophic Cascades and Insects Pathogens*," focused on her research on tri-trophic relationships between insect pathogens (baculoviruses), their insect hosts (in this case, Lepidoptera) and the plants that the insects feed upon. When most of us think of insect pathogens we tend to think of the relationship between the insect and pathogen. Dr. Cory views the interaction in a much broader context and has researched how the host plant influences the interaction between the insect and the pathogen. Presenting evidence from her research and from the literature, Dr. Cory demonstrated that the host plant might influence the many aspects of the biology of the pathogen (*i.e.* genetic diversity, transmission, infectivity, virulence and persistence in the environment) and its host (*i.e.* susceptibility, resistance, behaviour, fecundity).

Dr. Cory is continuing her research on tri-trophic relationships and is currently recruiting graduate students to her newly renovated lab.

The seminar drew a large audience, both from SFU and the PPMA membership. The Executive was delighted to see so many familiar faces in the audience, including PPMA Honorary Members Dr. Thelma Finlayson, Dr. Peter Belton, and Dr. John Webster. The seminar was followed by an informal reception.

PPMABC Mission Statement:

1. To promote professionalism in the practice of pest management for the protection of crops, livestock, public health and the environment in British Columbia;
2. To encourage scientific research and dissemination of information on pest management methods; and
3. To contribute to proposed regulatory legislation pertaining to any aspect of pest management.

Featured Lab – Staffan Lindgren, UNBC

Each issue, as a new feature of *Pesticulars*, we will highlight ongoing research in pest management. If you would like to recommend a lab to be featured, we welcome suggestions for future issues. Please contact Alex Chubaty (ppmabc@sfu.ca).

Staffan is a professor in the Ecosystem Science and Management Program at UNBC. A bug-nerd from an early age, he grew up in northern Sweden in a forestry-dominated community, which naturally led to a career in forest entomology. His academic training started in Sweden, but it was Dr. John Borden at SFU who provided the guidance that eventually landed Staffan at UNBC. Staffan (pictured below) has broad interests in forest insect ecology and management. His training is in applied chemical ecology, but over the last decade he has primarily focused on research in forest insect community ecology and insect-plant interactions.



Staffan Lindgren, UNBC

Members of the Lindgren lab are engaged in research on a broad range of topics in forest insect ecology and management. Recent research has focused on community ecology, particularly on ants and ground beetles, as well as insect-plant interactions projects focusing on the mountain pine beetle, Warren root collar weevil, and western conifer seed bug. Other projects include the use of molecular tools for studying population genetics of bark beetles and ants. Research in the lab is aimed at increasing our understanding of mechanisms of intra- and interspecific interactions, host plant and habitat selection by insects, and the application of

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knowledge for the benefit of forest managers. Along with the labs of colleagues Dezene Huber, Lisa Poirier and Brian Aukema, the lab forms the Forest Insect Research Group (FIRG) at UNBC, providing an excellent educational environment for graduate students.

There are currently six graduate students associated with the lab, of which four are writing their theses, and two have commenced their research in 2008:

- **Rob Higgins (PhD)** The ecology and utility of ants in the sub-boreal forests of British Columbia: Their natural history and role as bioindicators of coarse woody debris management
- **Tim Cudmore (MSc)** Mountain pine beetle population dynamics in lodgepole pine: Effects of host parameters in southern and northern BC.
- **Marnie Graf (MSc)** Effects of host quality parameters on fitness of the mountain pine beetle, *Dendroctonus ponderosae* Hopkins (Coleoptera: Scolytidae).
- **Duncan McColl (MSc)** The effect of ants on carabid communities relative to vegetation characteristics at different successional stages after clear cutting.
- **Tamara Richardson (below left) (MSc)** Mark-release recapture studies on the western conifer seed bug in conifer seed orchards.
- **Sean Henderson (below right) (MSc)** A comparison of three bioindicator approaches for assessing ecosystem resilience in coastal forests.

More information at <http://web.unbc.ca/~lindgren/>.



Forest entomology in Northern BC: Tamara Richardson (left) and Sean Henderson (right)

Endnotes

Upcoming Events and Meetings

- Pest Management Advisory Council
11-12 December 2008, Ottawa, ON
<http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/advbod/pmac-e.html>
- Vancouver Evolution Festival
2009, Vancouver, BC
<http://vanevo.ca>
- Structural Pest Management Assoc. of Ontario
20-21 January 2009, Toronto, ON
<http://www.spmao.ca/events/1st%20Mailout%20Brochure%202nd%20draft.pdf>
- Invasive Plant Council of BC
20-22 January 2009, Richmond, BC
<http://tinyurl.com/ipcbc09agm>
- Integrated and Environmental Pest Management Association
29-30 January 2009, Kelowna, BC
<http://www.iepma.ca/>
- PPMABC Symposium
17 February 2009, Burnaby, BC
<http://www.sfu.ca/~ppmabc/en/agms.html>
- Pacific Agriculture Show
19-21 February 2008, Abbotsford, BC
<http://www.agricultureshow.net/>
- Pest Management Canada
05-07 March 2009, Quebec City, QC
<http://www.pestworldcanada.org/cpma/events/>
- 6th International IPM Symposium
24-26 March 2009, Portland, OR
<http://www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium09>
- Canadian Phytopathological Society
22-26 June 2009, Winnipeg, MB
<http://www.cps-scp.ca/meetings.shtml>

Electronic Publishing

Pesticulars is now an electronic publication. To ensure that you receive your copy, please send us an updated email address. Email addresses and mailing information (for ballots and voting information) can be sent to Nadene Sawyer (ppmabc@sfu.ca).

Website

Our new website address is www.sfu.ca/~ppmabc/. Check it out for information on our association, contact details, copies of *Pesticulars*, and upcoming events. Webmaster: Alex Chubaty (achubaty@sfu.ca).

Pesticulars Submissions

We are always looking for pest management topics to publish. If you or know of others who have information to relay, exciting research to share, or upcoming events that you would like posted in one of our issues, please contact Alex Chubaty (achubaty@sfu.ca).