



# Interlink

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## Forest Ecosystem Science Co-operative Inc.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPOINTS NEW MEMBER

### Forest Co-op Board of Directors

Kandyd Szuba PhD, RPF  
Biologist, Domtar  
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~ Vice-Chair

John Lawson BScF, RPF  
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Bowater  
~ Secretary /Treasurer

Brian Campbell HBScF, RPF  
Regional Forestry Mgr.,  
Buchanan  
~ Director

Ted Van Lunen PhD  
Director General, GLFC  
~ Director

### Forest Co-op Management & Staff

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At its September meeting, Forest Co-op Board of Directors appointed Brian Campbell, Regional Forestry Manager, Buchanan Forest Products Ltd., as its newest member. Brian replaces outgoing Director Bert Hennessey (Buchanan) who resigned earlier in the month. Brian joins continuing Board members Kandyd Szuba, Chair (Domtar), Frank Kennedy, Vice-Chair (OMNR), John Lawson, Secretary-Treasurer (AbitibiBowater) and Ted Van Lunen, (Canadian Forest Service). The Forest Co-op thanks Bert Hennessey for his valuable service to the Board.



## PARTNERSHIPS ARE GOLDEN

The Forest Ecosystem Science Co-operative (Forest Co-op) Growth and Yield Science Unit (GYSU) model of collaborative partnerships is extremely valuable, and allows for the efficient development of quality growth and yield science and information products. Work performed through or on behalf of the Forest Co-op GYSU is suitable to member needs (they have an active voice and role in product development), is timely (it targets or supports current challenges and issues), and is credible within the larger community of practice (as well as to external observers). Members are a constant source of experience and innovation, and help fuel an atmosphere of creativity and possibility.

Partnerships, to survive and grow, must meet member's needs, and provide obvious benefits. The Forest Co-op GYSU certainly fits this profile, and has a long and growing list of accomplishments. The recently completed Forest Co-op Growth Intercept Project is one example of a member-generated need creatively and successfully addressed through the Forest Co-op. Looking at the chronology of the project (and ignoring the technical details) highlights the following: 1) The project was identified, described, and brought forward by the members. 2) Multiple partners contributed data and resources towards finding a solution. 3) Members targeted individuals within the research community capable of delivering this science product and worked with these researchers to further scope out and explain members interest in the project. 4) Using the Forest Co-op as a partner, and resources from the Forest Co-op as seed money, the researchers (Lakehead University) were able to further leverage these funds into a larger and more comprehensive project. 5) To date, two scientific publications in the peer reviewed literature have been developed, and one student has obtained their Master of Science Degree in Forestry.

In recognition of 10 years of a successful partnership, the quantity and quality of work accomplished, and the importance of maintaining ongoing initiatives, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is pleased to continue its long-term association with the Forest Co-op, and enter into a 'new' five year partnership agreement for the period 2008/09 to 2012/13. A little bit of certainty in what is becoming an increasingly uncertain environment will help to shore up confidence and is tangible demonstration of the value ascribed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to this relationship.

John Parton  
Co-Chair, Forest Co-op GYSU  
Provincial Growth and Yield Co-ordinator, OMNR



## 4TH ANNUAL FOREST CO-OP SCIENCE DAY



The date has been set so mark your calendars. The **4th Annual Forest Co-op Science Day** will be held in **Sudbury on Tuesday, April 21, 2009**. Once again we will be planning this event in conjunction with the Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA) Annual Meeting. The **Forest Co-op Annual General Meeting** will be held the **next morning** (Wednesday, April 22, 2009).

### FOREST CO-OP FISH & WILDLIFE SCIENCE UNIT (FWSU)

#### Projects Underway:

**Forest Co-op Wetlands and Waterbirds** – Led by Dr. Tom Nudds and Dr. Luca Borger (postdoctoral fellow) at the University of Guelph. This 2-phase project (assembly and analysis of existing data, followed by fieldwork) was developed to fill a gap in understanding of the effects of forestry on wetland bird communities, specifically secretive species and species at risk not well surveyed using standard methods for waterfowl and atlassing. This Forest Co-op 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund project is supported by the University of Guelph, the National Wildlife Research Centre, Golder Associates, and Forest Co-op members AbitibiBowater, Domtar, and OMNR.

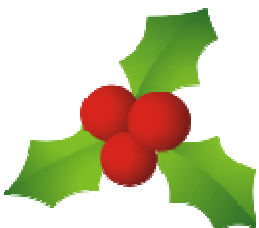
**Forest Co-op Caribou Population Viability Analysis Project** – Dr. John Fryxell (University of Guelph) is leading development of a population viability analysis model (PVA) to enable comparisons among potential policy alternatives with respect to the likelihood that an alternative can sustain caribou populations. This work is funded by the Forest Co-op 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund and Forest Co-op members AbitibiBowater, Domtar, OMNR, and Wagner Ontario Forest Management Ltd., as well as the University of Guelph and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC).



**Forest Co-op Lichens and Caribou VMAP Project** – This project will test the effects of post-harvest silviculture on site colonization by lichens, key foods of caribou, in relation to factors such as forest succession, herbicides, and site productivity. PhD candidate and expert lichenologist Troy McMullin is leading the work, along with Dr. Steve Newmaster (University of Guelph). Sites in northeastern Ontario have been assessed, and approaches to sample sites in northwestern Ontario are being considered, as well as what can be learned from information already assembled through the Forest Co-op GYSU Growth and Yield program. The work is supported by the OMNR ARIO VMAP Fund, University of Guelph, NSERC, NRC, Forest Co-op 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund, and Forest Co-op members AbitibiBowater, Domtar and Weyerhaeuser.

#### Projects Seeking Support:

**Forest Co-op Bio-indicators of Forest Stream Health** – Dave Kreutzweiser (Research Scientist, Aquatic Ecotoxicology, Natural Resources Canada, Sault Ste. Marie) and colleagues at NRCAN and Laurentian University (Dr. John Gunn) have developed a multi-faceted project, which would address areas of significant interest to the forestry and mining sectors. The Forest Co-op FWSU is seeking member support for one aspect – comparing the activity of leaf shredders and other key aquatic invertebrates at harvested, unharvested, and burned sites. This timely project, led by an excellent research team, will help to elucidate and address possible catchment-scale effects of forestry on aquatic invertebrates relative to natural disturbances, and would contribute to effectiveness monitoring of the direction on shoreline forestry promoted in OMNR's new Stand and Site Guide. OMNR, Domtar, and Tembec have made commitments to this project, but more support is needed. For information, please contact Dianne Miller, General Manager of the Forest Co-op.



## **Other Activities of the Forest Co-op FWSU:**

### **Forest Co-op Forest Birds Workshop, April 8-10, 2008 –**

**Presentations** – Are available for viewing on the Forest Co-op web site at:

[http://www.forestco-op.ca/forest\\_birds\\_workshop.htm](http://www.forestco-op.ca/forest_birds_workshop.htm)

**Publications** – Are coming in a special issue of the Forestry Chronicle in 2009. Dr. Ian Thompson (NRCAN-CFS) is co-ordinating publication of a synthesis paper and contributed papers from the workshop. Papers will address current knowledge on the status and needs of forest birds, approaches to forest management guideline development and testing, and recommendations for forest management.

### **Report on Birds Requiring Additional Fine Filter Approaches in Forest Management Plans –**

In preparation by Lynn Landriault (OMNR Southern Science and Information) and Stephen Mills (OMNR Northeast Science and Information) from results of the Bird Workshop and other material. Ontario's forest management planning process provides for birds using a hierarchical coarse filter-fine filter approach. The coarse filter strives to meet the needs of most species by providing natural amounts of forest cover types and age classes and emulating natural landscape patterns and stand structures to the extent possible. Fine filter approaches are invoked if necessary for individual species through habitat supply modeling, reserves, or timing restrictions on forestry activity. There have been questions from the public about the adequacy of the choices that have been made. Lynn and Stephen's work will provide managers with a critical assessment of the current approaches, valuable recommendations, and a comprehensive rationale.



**Current and Future Direction of the FWSU** – Since our last report, the Forest Co-op FWSU met via conference call on September 30 and December 2, 2008 to take stock and to identify areas of interest for future work relevant to the support of sustainable forest management. At these two meetings, Dr. Rob Rempel (OMNR CNFER), Dr. Brian Naylor (OMNR, Forest Policy Branch), Dr. Jim Baker (OMNR, Applied Research and Development Branch) and other members explained that effectiveness monitoring of the Landscape Guide and Stand and Site Guide, and woodland caribou habitat management are three key areas of interest which will offer opportunities for collaborative work with the Forest Co-op. Members expressed support for the Forest Co-op FWSU projects currently underway, and interest in the aquatic bio-indicators project, effects of beaver activity, effects and effectiveness of stream crossing types, re-vegetation of forest access roads, silviculture for caribou habitat, the effectiveness of current monitoring approaches, linking habitat and populations, and whether a synthesis of forestry effects on water is needed. The Forest Co-op FWSU will continue to work toward development of projects in these areas. The next meeting of the Forest Co-op FWSU is scheduled for Tuesday March 31, 2009.

### **Announcement - Congratulations OMNR on Publication of New Draft Guidelines!**

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) have published draft versions of (i) the “Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales”, and (ii) the “Forest Management Guide for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Landscapes” on the Environmental Registry for public comment (**until January 26, 2009**). Results of previous Forest Co-op projects have assisted OMNR to identify effective, efficient direction for these new guides. More information on the draft guides is available on the OMNR web site at: <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/index.html>

Best Wishes to all Forest Co-op Fish and Wildlife Science Unit Members in 2009 – thank you for your enthusiastic support and participation in 2008!

Kandyd Szuba  
Co-Chair, Forest Co-op FWSU  
Biologist, Domtar



## Forest Co-op Membership

### Active Members

AbitibiBowater Inc. —

John Lawson

Buchanan Forest Products Ltd.—

Brian Campbell / \*Genevieve Knauff

Domtar Inc.—

Kandyd Szuba / \*Janet Lane

FERIC —

Mark Ryans / \*Brad Sutherland

FPIInnovations (Forintek Division) —

Tony Zhang

Natural Resources Canada (CFS) —

Art Groot / Bill Meades

Rod Smith / Ted Van Lunen

\*Peter Newton

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources—

Wayne Fiset / \*Vivienne Scott

Tricia Greer / \*Bill Towill

Ed Iwachewski / \*Dan Duckert

Joe Kapron / \*Scott Jones

Eva Kennedy / \*Brian Batchelor

Al King / \*Taylor Scarr

Rob McAlpine / \*Eric Doidge

Mary-Ellen Stoll / \*Bob Watt

Tim Sullivan / \* Steve Kingston

Frank Kennedy

Tembec Enterprises Inc.—

Al Thorne / \*Jeff Leach

Wagner Ontario Forest Management Ltd

Jiska Westbroek / \*Mike O'Neill

Weyerhaeuser Company Limited —

Matt Wilkie / \*Bob Boyce

### Associate Members

Confederation College of Applied Arts & Technology—

Brian Kurikka / \* Dave Archibald

GeoSpatial Consulting Inc.—

Craig Robinson /

\* Geordie Robere-McGugan

Sumac Forest Information Services Ltd.

Dave Carr / \* Todd Domney

## FOREST CO-OP GROWTH & YIELD SCIENCE UNIT (GYSU)

The Forest Co-op GYSU has once again had a very busy and productive field season with the Forest Co-op GYSU Permanent Growth Plot (PGP) Program for 2008-2009. With some 470 PGPs scheduled for re-measurement across the south-central and boreal regions of the province along with 20 new PGP establishments, there was no shortage of work to be carried out. True to form, our contractors (Sumac, Timber Craft and Chris Lyons) have once again delivered outstanding results, completing quality work, on-budget and ahead of schedule. This year's program was supported by partners AbitibiBowater, Buchanan, Domtar, OMNR, Tembec, Weyerhaeuser and the Forest Co-op 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund. The reams of data associated with this work continue to stream into the Forest Co-op office and all information is expected to be received by early December.



Due in large part to the widely-accepted methodologies used in the measurement of PGPs, the network of plots has grown in size as additional projects have utilized the Forest Co-op PGP design. Projects such as the Forest Co-op Prescribed Burn Project and the Forest Co-op ES11/12 Shallow Soils Project have been carried out using consistent protocols and have added to the wealth of data and information collected through the Forest Co-op GYSU PGP Program. To date there have been in excess of 5000 PGP measurements across some 3300 unique locations through Forest Co-op projects and initiatives resulting in the measurement of approximately 400,000 trees!

The extensive database of Forest Co-op PGP information is utilized on numerous endeavours not only by the Forest Co-op GYSU partners but by leading investigators and modelers in the research community. Examples of data use cover a wide range of topics from yield curve development and diameter distribution modeling to tree and stand simulators and enhanced inventory development. A listing of projects that have utilized Forest Co-op GYSU PGP protocols or data can be found at [http://www.forestco-op.ca/projects\\_gysu/usage.htm](http://www.forestco-op.ca/projects_gysu/usage.htm).

The Forest Co-op GYSU provides a forum for foresters, growth and yield specialists, researchers and science delivery teams to pool their skills, ideas and resources in order to develop practical and timely solutions. The next meeting of the Forest Co-op GYSU is scheduled for April 20, 2009 in Sudbury, Ontario.

Thank you to all members of the Forest Co-op GYSU for contributing to another successful year!

Dave Wood  
Project Co-ordinator, Forest Co-op



*Wishing you a joyous  
holiday season  
and a happy, healthy 2009!*

*Dianne, Dave and Janece*