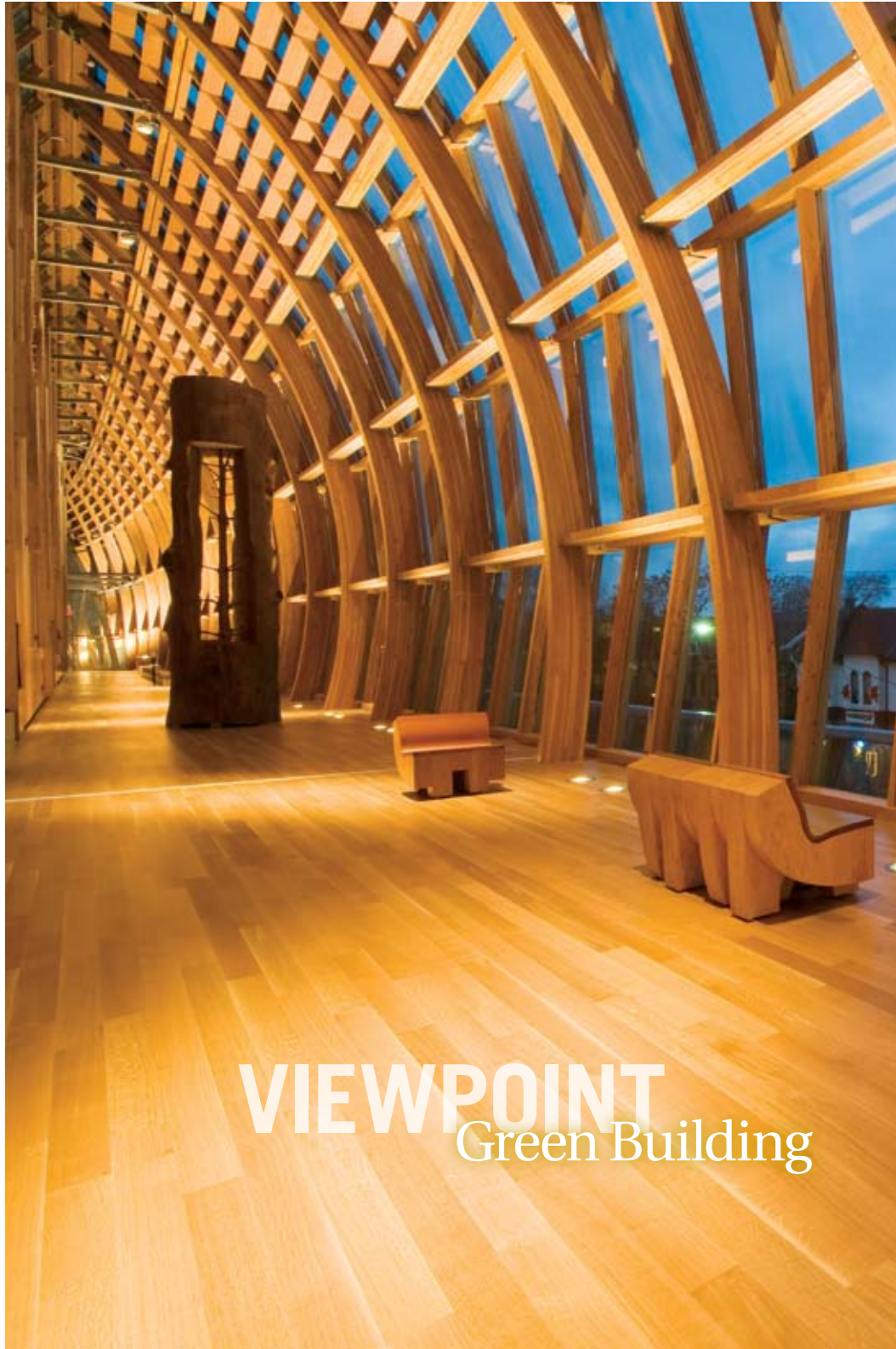


MARCH - APRIL 2012

BC Forest PROFESSIONAL

Boundaries of Discipline
under the *Foresters Act*

**Voluntary
Peer Reviews:**
Way More Fun
Than You'd Think



VIEWPOINT
Green Building

STAY SHARP



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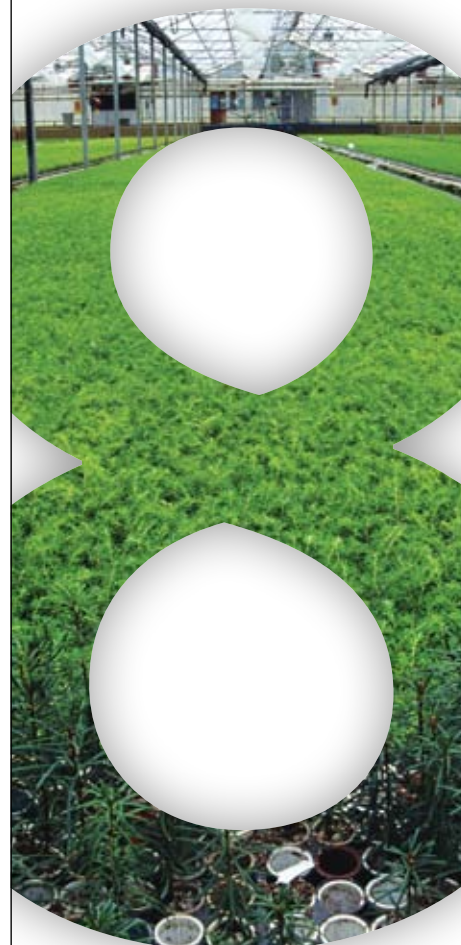
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Plant Wizard Software Update

It's here!



See back cover



Plant Wizard™

Irresponsible to Exaggerate Climate Doubt

It is an RPF's responsibility to "to seek to sustain the health and sustainability of forests...Not misrepresent facts...to inspire confidence...to express a professional opinion only when it is founded on adequate knowledge and experience". (Citations from the Discipline Case Study printed on the page opposite Cameron Leitch's book review in the January-February 2012 issue of **BC Forest Professional**.)

There is no uncertainty that the

- defined greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere have steadily increased over 150 years,
- rate of GHGs increase and known anthropogenic emissions match, and
- radiative forcing of these accumulating GHGs match the effective warming we have witnessed.

These facts make it irresponsible to exaggerate climate doubt for which there virtually no scientific evidence.

While correlation alone does not attribute cause, the degree of correlation is now overwhelming. Hundreds of thousands of years in multiple ice cores from both the Arctic and the Antarctic present consistent correlation between CO₂ levels and global average Co (as indicated by the oxygen isotopes (O18/O16) ratios). Analysis of the other drivers of climate change, like solar radiation cycles, have been shown not to be the primary driver of warming over the last 150 years. We may all wish it were not so, but as a professional forester it is irresponsibly cruel to pander to that fantasy, it may even be a breach of the RPF code of ethics.

The only thing recommending this book is the author is a local English instructor at UVic. What condemns the book is the magnitude of the local consequences of global warming—50% of BC's pine killed by mountain pine beetles from seventeen warm winters.

Responsible foresters are busy with mitigation actions to reduce GHGs and adaptive management initiatives such as interpreting climate adjusted seed zones. Irresponsible foresters thoughtlessly recommend another self-published climate-denial book no one has peer reviewed.

DIRK BRINKMAN, ABCFP HONOURARY MEMBER, NEW WESTMINSTER

In a Word...Alarming

This book review was, in a word, well, alarming. Alarm bells kept ringing as I read.

MacRae's arguments and assertions are all too familiar. The reviewer's personal view is, clearly, like MacRae's, that anthropogenic global warming (AGW) is just errant claims by "alarmists." I don't have a problem with either of them—they're entitled to their views.

I do have a problem with this appearing in the **BC Forest Professional** as a book review, rather than a Viewpoint. As presented, the review seems to suggest that ABCFP members have reason to, and perhaps should, dismiss AGW and related "bad environmental policies." This is a disservice to the information needs of professionals.

The spectrum of opinions and varying credibility of sources of information on AGW is a serious problem for forest professionals. A review that critically examined this issue, with suggestions on how professionals can critically appraise claims across the full spectrum would be helpful. Uncritical advertising of a book at one end of the spectrum, as provided by this review, is not particularly helpful. It may even be misleading (see, for example, www.skepticalscience.com for counter-arguments to those of MacRae).

Philosophical viewpoints about AGW aside, there are real-world problems related to climate change. If ever a country had strong economic reasons to be dismissive of AGW, it would be China, which, with its burgeoning economy, is now the leading emitter of greenhouse gases. Instead of touting MacRae's views, however, China has just issued a 710-page report about anticipated AGW impacts on China and the \$1.6 trillion they intend to spend by 2020 to reduce their contribution to AGW (<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/18/us-china-climate-idUSTRE80H06J20120118>). That's about 40 times the total BC government budget for 2011.

Forest professionals here need to think hard about the investments and changes in practices that can help minimize anticipated climate change impacts in BC.

TOM NIEMANN, RPF, VICTORIA

BC Forest Professional is published six times a year by the Association of BC Forest Professionals

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DESIGN: Massyn Design

PRINTING: Mitchell Press

DISTRIBUTION: PDQ Post Group

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER: Brenda Martin

330–321 Water St, Vancouver, BC V6B 1B8

Tel: 604.639.8103 • Fax: 604.687.3264

E-mail: forest-ads@abcfp.ca

ISSN:1715-9164

Annual Subscriptions: Canada \$44.80 incl HST

U.S. and international \$80 Canadian funds

Publications mail agreement No: 40020895

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

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False False Alarm

If nine out of ten mechanics tell me I need to fix my car and one tells me to ignore the noise, what should I do? Depends on how much I know about cars. If I know very little, then I should probably go with the majority opinion. Going with the long-shot is just wishful thinking. If I know a bit more about how cars operate, then I should look into the arguments presented by each side.

So take a look at *False Alarm: Global Warming—Facts Versus Fears*¹, but consider two points. First, know that it presents a poorly supported view: the vast majority of climate scientists support the anthropogenic climate change hypothesis (none of 928 papers reviewed rejected the hypothesis)². Second, know your own capacity to evaluate the arguments critically: we all tend to use information to bolster rather than challenge our pre-existing views³.

DAVE DAUST, RPF
TELKWA, BC

P.S. I don't want to be accused of being an "AGW alarmist"¹, but the noise is getting louder—are you planning to fix it?

- 1 see Lietch, C. 2012. Book review of False Alarm. In BC Forest Professional. 19(1): 26.
- 2 Oreskes, N. 2004. The scientific consensus on climate change. Science 306: 1686.
- 3 Hart, W., D. Albarrican, A.H. Eagly, I. Brechan, M.J. Lindberg and L. Merrill. 2009. Feeling validated versus being correct: a meta-analysis of selective exposure to information. Psychological Bulletin. 135(4): 555-588.

Just a Tip of my Hard Hat

After graduating from UBC in 1959, like most young foresters at that time, my forestry skills required a lot of fine tuning and development.

Upon reading the 'In Memorium' tributes, in the January/February 2012 issue of **BC Forest Professional**, to the distinguished foresters: Victor Heath, Bill Batten, Ralph Johnston, Bern Gayle and Bruce Clark, it gave me pause to reflect on how much these 'icons of forestry' provided inspiration to the younger novices in our profession.

And so, as I am now in my 76th year and a Life Member following my retirement on my 72nd birthday, I feel compelled to give a vote of thanks to these gentlemen, as well as to others of this era, such as: Dave M., Ike B., John M., Gerry B., Sig T. and many more, for having provided my generation with the grounding and training we needed.

May such spirit continue, for it is because of the guidance given by professionals like the foregoing that every effort is made by aspiring young forest professionals to ensure that the best decision is made on each piece of forested ground under their jurisdiction.

A respectful thank you!

ALF FARENHOLTZ, RPF (RET) #506, LIFE MEMBER
KAMLOOPS

The CIF Reaches Out to Students in Many Ways

In his last President's Report, Ian Emery, indicated how impressed he was with the number of student chapters of the Society of American Forester (SAF) in many (USA) schools, and that the ABCFP and BC schools should explore ways to bolster membership and recruit students to our profession ("Innovative Thinking" January/February 2012).

The Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF), a century-old national organization with a mandate and structure similar to the SAF, has been reaching out to students for decades. CIF welcomes students as members at reduced fees, and provides financial assistance through grants and travel support to meetings, including CIF's national AGM. CIF's mentorship program, Branching Out, connects young forestry professionals with people and resources to help them start-off a successful career. Local CIF section meetings also afford students opportunities to mingle with practising and retired forest professionals. These contacts foster a sense of belonging and can lead to job opportunities. Since 1953, CIF Vancouver Section has presented silver rings to graduates of UBC's Faculty of Forestry. In 1967, the Silver Ring program was expanded nationally to all CIF-recognized degree-granting forestry schools, and expanded again in 2002 to include technical schools.

At the recent Truck Loggers Association meeting in Victoria, Minister Pat Bell encouraged the audience to attend CIF Silver Ring ceremonies to thank students for choosing a career in the natural resource sector. ABCFP members are welcome to attend the CIF Silver Ring ceremonies to be held in Vancouver, Nanaimo, Castlegar and Prince George in March. ABCFP members can also support students by attending local CIF section events and becoming a CIF member. Details can be found at: www.cif-ifc.org and in forthcoming editions of **The Increment**.

BRIAN T. BARBER, RPF
CHAIR, VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION
CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY
http://www.cif-ifc.org/site/vancouver_island

Crying for the Moon

While I can only agree with Anthony Britneff's assertion (**BC Forest Professional**, January/February 2012) that "...prospects for responsible resource management increase..." when resource managers and the public agree on the baseline data, I believe another equally important area of agreement is needed. That is, what do we, as the community, want from our complex of baseline resources?

BC's inability to develop a clear and acceptable answer to this question lies at the root of all our land-use conflicts and, with so many possibilities and so many different interest groups, there can be no easy path to a solution. Is that reason enough not to try? We have achieved some local successes but where is the overall provincial consensus—or is it an unattainable ideal, am I crying for the moon?

R.M. STRANG, RPF (RET)
SURREY

President's Report

By Ian Emery, RFT, ASCT, PMP



Farewell: I'm Leaving You in Good Hands

This is my chance to say farewell and reflect on my term as president. In preparation for writing this report I had a look back at the goals I had for my election to vice-president and they are a bit different from those that I took on in my term as president.

Improving the governance model and increasing council effectiveness was one area on which I focused a lot of time and effort—and I feel was very successful. I realized early on that by focusing council on strategic direction and allowing staff to focus on operations, we would see efficiencies on both sides so I made this my primary goal. Of course we wouldn't have had the success we've had without the buy-in and support of council and our CEO, Sharon Glover. I would like to thank council and Sharon for their support. We have some excellent strategic thinkers on council and this shift has allowed the council as a whole to become more efficient and have more time to focus on the larger strategic issues.

Fiscal responsibility was next on my list of goals and I can honestly report to you all that your council does a great job of keeping your interests at heart when approving and monitoring the operating budget and making sure there is clear accountability in achieving the budget.

Recruitment was third on my list and was likely the one message you heard about as I managed to reach a lot of people with it. My main goal was to spread the message that we need to be serious about recruitment and the looming shortage of qualified workers and that it isn't just limited to forest professionals but the entire forest sector. We need to approach this as a collaborated sector approach and capitalize on the synergies that can be realized from this type of approach.

The more I talked to people and organizations about this issue, the more I became aware that a lot was being done on an individualized approach. In addition to the ABCFP, some of the organizations focusing on recruitment into the sector are: COFI, ASTTBC, TLA, CIF, government, individual forestry companies and many more. Could you imagine the funds and resources that could be made available if we could pool all these organizations together for a concerted approach at recruitment? I realize that this was a stretch goal but I also realize that this isn't something that can be done overnight nor is it something that I'm going to walk away from because my term is over. I will continue to work on ideas to improve recruitment into our profession.

On closing I want to thank Rick Brouwer, RPF, and Steve Lorimer, RPF, for all their help and support. They put in a lot of time as sounding boards for the different issues and ideas I had to deal with over the year. I hope that I am able to support Steve in his role as president half as well as Rick supported me. I know I can speak for all of council when I say that Rick will be missed. I also need to thank council for the support they gave and recognize the councillors who will be leaving us this year: Bev Atkins, RFT; Mike Pelchat, RPF; Gordon Prest, lay councillor; Herb Langin, lay councillor; and Curt Nixon, RPF. 🐾



CEO's Report

By Sharon Glover, MBA

We've Been Busy in the Advocacy Arena

Land management and planning, mid-term timber supply, fire, research, and inventory – we've been advocating on quite a number of issues lately and it is time to update you about our activities.

Landbased Management and Planning

For the past number of years, the ABCFP has been studying the planning framework in BC with an eye toward improving it for the future. The following information continues to be one of the messages we bring to the senior executives in government.

It has become evident that landscape and resource planning often occurs in silos. In forestry terms, this behaviour doesn't encourage investment in the next rotation and increases the risk for poor stewardship of BC's forests and lands (for example, forestry companies, oil and gas organizations, and independent power producers sometimes work at odds with each other). The ABCFP remains concerned that no single agency is either looking into, monitoring, or has authority regarding the cumulative impacts of the various resource uses on the land.

The creation of MFLNRO should help resolve this situation but until clear objectives are set at the landscape level, confusion on the land will still occur.

Embracing land-based management will address and resolve many outstanding issues that have occurred due to the current circumstances of multiple jurisdictions, agencies, tenure holders, resource users, and influences such as climate change. It also has the capacity to link planning processes back to general stewardship objectives and create efficiencies for all parties currently struggling to work on the landscape.

Mid-Term Timber Supply

Last fall, the ABCFP released our report on the mid-term timber supply after doing extensive

research and consulting with members. Earlier this year, we amended it to reflect new information we received from members who work with visual quality objectives. The report was written specifically to inform a number of analyses that chief forester Jim Snetsinger, RPF, was conducting to determine what, if any, forest value should be relaxed in order to access more of the mid-term timber supply today to keep mills viable. The report was also intended to provide ABCFP members with some of the more important facts to be incorporated in their member advocacy discussions within their communities.

Our position is that we should not be making sacrifices now that will bring limited short-term gain and will negatively affect the mid-term timber supply. Our report and opinions have been picked up by various media outlets several times since its release.

Fire

The ABCFP continues to monitor the progress by communities in BC to address their 'at risk' interface areas to fire through the development of community wildfire protection plans, related prescriptions and fuel reduction treatments. We collect this information from the Wildfire Management Branch and share it with members periodically in **The Increment**.

We encourage our members to contribute to, or lead in, increased public protection from the risk of wildfire by contributing to the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative as local citizens; as volunteers; as representatives for their employer(s); and as hired experts.

We are also working collaboratively with Wildfire Management Branch to review job descriptions of people who work for the Wildfire Management Branch to determine if they are practising professional forestry or not. We recognize that response activities in forest fire fighting are not part of the practice and there are other jobs within the branch that do contain actions that are the practice of professional forestry.

Research

Last fall the ABCFP asked members if they were getting the research they needed

after the closure of the ministry's Research Branch. More than 500 members took the time to answer our survey and provided us with valuable data. We heard that members overwhelmingly felt that the current research does not match their current or future research needs. Members told us that the areas that needed the most research were silviculture, climate change and forest health. Members also felt that government agencies and universities should lead forestry research.

We took the information we learned from the survey that was conducted late last fall and have started to advocate for changes to improve the research efforts in the province. We wrote to the ministry and expressed our concern about the issue.

Inventory

The ABCFP first produced an inventory report in 2006 to examine the state of BC's forest inventory. The findings weren't good – forest professionals did not have enough information about the forest inventory in order to properly plan for the future. The need for an up-to-date forest inventory is even more important today than it was in 2006 due to the level of disturbances caused by the mountain pine beetle and several bad fire seasons.

Five years later, in 2011, the ABCFP reviewed the 2006 report and reported on what had changed. Two of the fundamental problems are still the same – a lack of adequate funding and a potentially dangerous lack of succession planning or redundancy in terms of staff. However, there have been some positive changes including public access to some inventory products and regular reporting has taken place in the form of State of the Forest reports in 2006 and 2010. Summarized forest inventory information is made available each year on the ministry's website.

We released our findings to the minister in early February and to the public at our annual conference and AGM in February.

Your association has been busy in the several advocacy areas. We will continue to update you on our efforts in both **The Increment** and BCFP magazine. 🐾

Council Election Results

The ABCFP would like to thank all of the members who let their names stand for election for the 65th council. We would also like to thank the 896 members who cast their votes by mail or online. The successful candidates are as follows:

VICE-PRESIDENT

Christine Gelowitz, RPF

COUNCILLORS

Ken Hodges, RPF

Angeline Nyce, RPF

Sue Price, RFT

Brian Westgate, RPF

RETURNING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Steve Lorimer, RPF, President

Ian Emery, RFT, Immediate

Past President

Rod Visser, Lay Councillor

Dan Graham, RPF

Carolyn Stevens, RFT

Carl vanderMark, RPF

The 65th council took office on February 23, 2012 at the AGM in Victoria.

Mid-Term Timber Supply Advocacy Report Amended

New information has been brought to our attention regarding the identification of values in the original advocacy report. Specifically, when viewed with a tourism lens, the issue of visual quality objectives (VQO's) can look quite different. Tourism associated with BC's forestlands and

forest resources makes a significant contribution to local economies and the overall provincial economy. Nature-based tourism generates \$1.6 billion for BC and is a major driver of BC's \$13 billion tourism industry.

The ABCFP is concerned that references to specific values in the advocacy report may weaken the impact of key points in the report by suggesting that the ABCFP endorses a preferred choice. Be sure to read the updated advocacy report on the website (in the Stewardship and Practice Reports section). Comments regarding this report can be forwarded to Mike Larock, RPF, director of forest stewardship and professional practice, at mlarock@abcfp.ca.

Have You Seen the Practice Reminders?

The ABCFP has a new way of telling members about issues, challenges and problems associated with professional practice—Practice Reminders. These notes are e-mailed to members on an as needed basis. At time of writing, there have been two Practice Reminders issued and we anticipate releasing several more over the next few months. We send them to the same members who receive **The Increment** so be sure to update your mailing preferences to ensure you receive both the e-newsletter and Practice Reminders (visit Members' Area, My Membership, Manage Mailings). You can also read Practice Reminders on the website (visit Practice & Development and then Networking & Advice).

Now is the Time to Form Your Study Groups

RPF and RFT exam candidates should be forming study groups now to prepare for the 2012 exams. We encourage RPFs and RFTs to study together. You can register your study group on the website so the ABCFP can provide support when we are in your community.

If you would like Brian Robinson, RPF, director of professional development and member relations, to meet with your study group, please e-mail him at brobinson@abcfp.ca. Brian is also available to meet with any study group by conference call.

Put in Your Two Cents

The **BC Forest Professional** letters' section is intended primarily for feedback on recent articles and for brief statements about current association, professional or forestry issues. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense letters and encourages readers to keep letters to 300 words. Anonymous letters are not accepted. Please refer to our website for guidelines to help make sure your submission gets published in **BC Forest Professional**.



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Applying the Principles of Forest Stewardship to: GREEN BUILDING

The Forest Stewardship¹ principles have been recently developed to strengthen the language within the *Foresters Act*. The Stewardship Committee has provided an example of how they are applicable to green building.

The relationship between green building and Forest Resource Management Objectives is not always clear, however there is a linkage. Green building certification schemes typically require wood products from certified forestry operations². To obtain certified status, forest managers must show how they meet specific criteria, which vary by certification scheme but are generally understood to indicate sustainable practices and procedures. While experts debate the best way to measure sustainability, forest professionals in BC are compelled³ to examine how their plans will maintain healthy ecosystem functions, while providing services to the owner. Achieving a balance between prescribed forest practices and healthy ecosystem functions shows how stewardship principles are a part of careful planning by forest professionals.

1 Principles of Stewardship of Forests, Forest Lands, Forest Resources and Forest Ecosystems (June 2011) –(draft under revision.)

2 Chain of Custody for Certified Wood products within LEED Canada

3 ABCFP Bylaw 11.3.3 and 12.6.1

GREEN BUILDING IS ONE OF THOSE TOPICS WITH A lot of angles. We run the gamut in this issue with articles about how green building affects forest professionals to asking architects why and how they use wood in their projects. Shannon Janzen, RPF, leads off the Viewpoint section with a great piece about LEED certification and how the process isn't always as green as one would expect. We also have an interesting piece reprinted from the Athena Sustainable Materials Institute explaining what life cycle assessments are and how they are used.

In this issue we also have a special feature about voluntary peer reviews. Voluntary peer reviews are a hands-on professional development tool that's meant to improve a member's professional practice and confidence. In the feature, four forest professionals explain their experience of voluntary peer reviews and why they'd recommend the process to others.

Finally, we have two very different reviews of a controversial book, *Empire of the Beetle*. Is the book terrible or terrific? Read both reviews and decide with whom you agree.

Thanks for taking to the time to read the March/April 2012 issue of **BC Forest Professional**. I hope all our readers find something valuable in this issue. 🍌

It's Not Easy Being Green: A Critique of LEED Sustainable Forest Management Criteria

Photo: iStockPhoto



LIKE ANY GOOD CANADIAN, I AM A BIG CBC FAN. *The Age of Persuasion* explores the countless ways marketing permeates and influences society, and is on my top 10 list of favorite CBC programs. Last summer, the station aired a repeat of a powerful episode with a simple message: it's not easy being green. The program's thesis gave way to the rise in self-proclaimed green credentials (green washing) as the root cause of growing cynicism and scrutiny on behalf of consumers seeking the most environmentally friendly alternatives.

Green building is no exception. It's impossible to research every aspect and every angle. So as consumers, businesses and governments we look to independent sources, with independent standards, such as the US Green Builders' Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) to verify that our investment truly warrants a good feeling about being green. But by choosing LEED are we ensuring that the most environmentally friendly alternatives have been selected? No, unfortunately it's not that easy.

LEED proponents target specific criteria to obtain a minimum of 40 points for base certification and require over 80 for a LEED platinum designation. The following are the three most pertinent criteria to sustainable forest management (SFM) within the Renewable Resources Section of the LEED for New Construction Standard.

- Regional Materials (1 to 2 points)
- Rapidly Renewable Materials (1 point)
- Certified Wood (1 point)

Let's evaluate these criteria based on the ranking system below to see if they are truly as environmentally friendly as LEED marketing would have us believe.

Greenness Ranking

- 1 Commendable.** In the vast majority of situations, the criteria will create a better environmental outcome.
- 2 Questionable.** There are plausible and relatively common scenarios in which the environmental benefit is questionable.
- 3 Shameful.** There are plausible and likely scenarios where the criteria will have a detrimental environmental impact.

Regional Materials

The credits for Regional Materials are based on 10-20% of the material, by cost, being extracted, harvested and manufactured from within a 500 miles (as the crow flies) of the LEED certified building.

Depending on location, this is a difficult test to meet. However, if successful, sourcing wood products close to home saves emissions from transportation. Barring mill efficiency considerations, this criterion will generally lead to a positive environmental outcome from an emissions perspective and hence is a 'Commendable' component of the LEED standard.

Rapidly Renewable Resources

To qualify these materials must have a harvest cycle of 10 years or less. The point is derived from a minimum of 2.5% of rapidly renewable resources by cost. Products listed as being eligible include bamboo, corn (plastic substitute) and soy (spray foam insulation).

In evaluating whether this criterion will lead to a 'green' product choice, the following questions come to mind:

- What sustainable management practices (legal or otherwise) govern the harvest cycle?
- Have native forests been converted to plantations to produce these materials?
- Has agricultural land been diverted from food crops? Will this diversion force deforestation elsewhere to sustain the ever growing global demand for food?

There is no LEED requirement to address these questions, hence it is of 'Questionable' environmental benefit and may prove to be detrimental at the broader scale.

Certified Wood

This point can be obtained by using 50% of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood by cost.

LEEDUser is a web-based resource designed to help proponents navigate through the various Building Standards and includes helpful tips for green builders. This popular site contains the following advice:

This credit [Certified Wood] can be easy and with little or no cost premium if your project only has a small amount of wood. [There is] No minimum amount of wood.

If wood is a big part of your project, with a lot of wood flooring, framing, or veneers, you're unlikely to earn this credit unless you can find a source of FSC-certified wood for those items that's within your budget. More wood = more challenging.

If large quantities of wood are used, it is very likely that a proponent will choose to ignore FSC certification given that this point is relatively insignificant in relation to the total points required. So, with more wood use, there is no incentive to pay attention to any form of certification and that is 'Shameful.'

If the certification point is desired, only small amounts of wood will be used. What is the alternative to wood? Non-renewable, energy intensive substitutes such as concrete and steel come to mind. Again 'Shameful.'

To be clear, I have not ranked this criterion so harshly because it is exclusive to FSC. (Although the certification debate in itself could receive an equal classification). It receives this designation because there are plausible and likely scenarios where this criterion is detrimental to the environment. Including points to recognize other certifications would not entirely solve the problem but would improve the credibility of the standard by incenting proponents to target a diversity of carbon friendly wood products from known legal and sustainable sources.

As far as green building goes, LEED does not guarantee that the most environmentally friendly alternatives are being selected. That's not to say that the standard isn't headed in the right direction as a whole—it just suggests that more scrutiny is required.

To be effective, this scrutiny can't be driven by politics; it has to be driven by the desire to achieve the best outcome relative to reasonable alternatives. Society is capable of getting better at making these choices. But it will never be easy being green.

Shannon Janzen, RPF, is the manager of strategic planning with Western Forest Products Inc. Shannon's portfolio includes strategic planning with First Nations, tenure certainty and timberlands certification.



What is Green Building and Why Should Forest Professionals Care?

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT—EVERYTHING FROM OUR HOUSES TO THE tallest buildings—account for almost 39% of total energy use. This includes 12% of total water consumption, 68% of total electricity consumption and almost 40% of total carbon dioxide emissions.

So what goes on in our buildings has a direct impact on the environment. In particular, it has an impact on the landbase which provides all of the materials necessary for buildings to exist—cement, aggregate, metals, fossils fuels and wood. None of these come without environmental cost. But some have greater costs than others.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) identified the potential for green buildings to aid in both mitigating and fighting the rise of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The IPCC indicated that, in effect, the biggest opportunity to mitigate climate change is inextricably linked to forests and wood products.

The IPCC stressed three ways that forest professionals can affect wood and forests to make a difference:

1. Increase the forest landbase—thereby enhancing to opportunity absorb more CO₂.
2. Increase the growing capacity of that forest landbase so that a given area can sequester more carbon in the forest carbon pools.
3. Ensure there is a sustained yield of wood products that can be placed in long-term use in order to sequester carbon.

The last item clearly indicates the importance of using materials that either do not emit greenhouse gases or, as in the case for wood, remove and lock up carbon in its very substance.

It should also be clear to forest professionals that the desired increase in the use of wood will necessitate greater diligence by forest managers around the world to ensure that the landbase can play its part over the long term. It highlights the important link between professional managers of our forests and the products we will depend on which come from them.

But is that going to be enough?

Probably not.

The biggest environmental advantage to using wood is not the sequestered carbon. Nor is it the low embodied energy it takes to produce wood products. One of the most significant benefits to using wood is the opportunity it affords to NOT use something else.

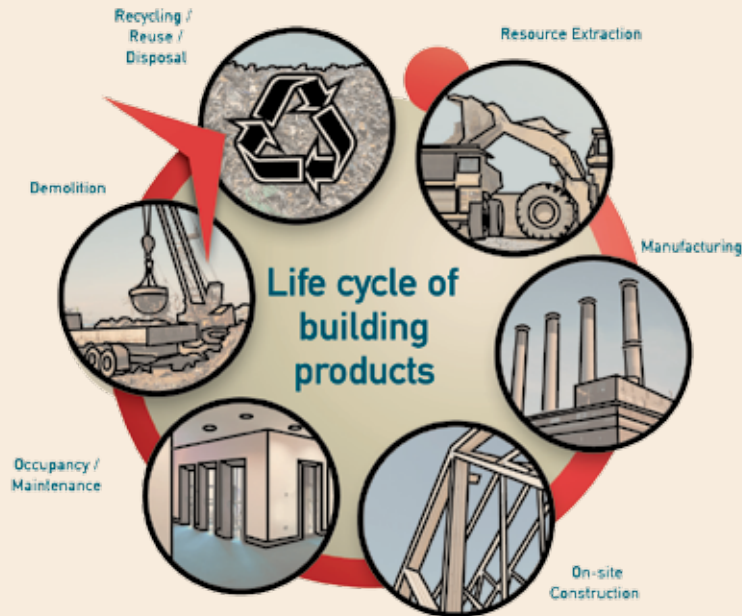
Most other structural materials require significant amounts of energy and result in large CO₂ emissions during their production. While wood requires some energy to log, transport and manufacture, there is a net reduction in CO₂ when compared to other products. When wood is used, not only do we sequester CO₂, we avoid having to use another higher impact material.

When the 2010 Olympic structures were built, the organizing committee indicated that all of these buildings would be green and certified under with the LEED or Green Globes rating tools. As well, there was an effort to reflect our cultural, social and economic foundations. As a result, many of these iconic buildings used large amounts of wood. (If you've never been to the Richmond Olympic Oval, it is worth a visit to see just how much wood was used.)

When the wood used in all BC Olympic venues was accounted for, there were approximately 8,000 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide sequestered in the buildings. More importantly, using wood avoided the almost almost 17,500 metric tonnes of emissions that would have occurred had other materials been used.

And the wood used came from certified forests in British Columbia, all managed by our forest professionals. That's something to care about. 🐾

Peter Moonen is a third generation British Columbian who, like many in the province has his roots in the forest sector. A technical communications specialist with almost 30 years' experience, he has spent the last 22 years in the forest industry, dealing with internal and external technical communications pertaining to regulatory, environmental, sustainability, economic and operational issues.



What is a Life Cycle Assessment?

LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA) IS A SCIENTIFIC method for measuring the environmental footprint of materials, products and services over their entire lifetime. The benefit is simple: reliable, transparent data for both manufacturers and consumers.

Life cycle assessment is often referred to as cradle-to-grave or cradle-to-cradle analysis and is essential for making green decisions, whether in product manufacturing or in building design. It is life cycle thinking applied to a product:

- What is involved to make a product and transport it to an installation site?
- What inputs and waste will occur related to using the product over its life?
- What will happen to the product when it is no longer needed?

Without measured data, we can only guess about the true footprint of our choices.

Life cycle thinking enables consideration of trade-offs; one decision affects other elements in the larger picture. For example, if we increase recycled content in a product, have we created a problem for further recycling or disposal later? Sometimes environmental decisions simply shift the burden to another

part of the environment. LCA ensures a comprehensive perspective to help avoid this.

Life cycle thinking isn't about distinguishing good products from bad products. It's about informed decision-making. More data enables better tools for decisions. Everything has environmental impact. LCA enables informed consideration of those impacts.

Why Do Life Cycle Assessments?

Life cycle assessment is the most reliable method to verify environmental impacts and support claims. It provides designers, regulators and engineers with irrefutable information for exploring decisions in each life stage of materials, buildings, services and infrastructure.

LCA identifies environmental hot spots in products and materials and establishes the benchmark, against which improvements can be measured. Companies use LCA to demonstrate full footprint transparency and corporate credibility to stakeholders and customers. LCA is also used in new product research and development, when environmental footprint is important to the future marketing or cost structure of a product.

LCA is integrated across sectors and industries. It is recognized in business rationales as consumer and regulatory environmental expectations are increasing in demand and sophistication.

How Do Life Cycle Assessments Affect Environmental Product Declarations?

LCA's growing significance is evident in the next wave of eco-labeling: environmental product declarations (EPDs), which report LCA data. Environmental product declarations are often likened to nutrition labels on food packages. Already prevalent in Europe and Asia, EPDs are coming to North America, driven by market forces such as a new pilot credit in LEED and a new materials and resource credit in LEED 2012. Suppliers to the construction sector are developing LCA data and EPDs to meet this market demand. 🐾

An objective think tank, the Athena Institute is working with leading edge construction sector practitioners, product manufacturers and policy makers in partnership towards the next generation of green buildings.



Different Paths to Green Building

FOR OVER TWO DECADES, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY CONCERNS HAVE led to world-wide interest in the construction of green or sustainable buildings. This has led to a proliferation of various green building rating systems, codes and standards. These are increasingly becoming a topic of discussion in forestry circles as most of them address wood products and sustainable forest management certification as a component of defining what is a 'green building.' Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) produces publications that explore these developments and promotes wood as a sustainable building material.

The choice of products used to build or renovate buildings of all types has a huge impact on the world's environment. The United States Department of Energy says building construction and operation consumes more energy than any other sector of that country's economy, including transportation and industry. Green products and whole building designs can make structures more efficient and reduce their impact on human health and the environment at every stage—from choosing a location to maximizing passive solar energy to making sure materials can be easily removed and reused once the structure's useful life has ended. Green buildings are meant to be high performance. They use less energy, less water and fewer or smarter materials. They are easier to maintain and repair, are designed to be durable, and last even longer if they are adaptable and easy to renovate.

In the world of green buildings, there are basically three types of systems that define a building as green.

1. There are many voluntary green building rating systems and tools that are available to rank the level of a building's environmental performance based upon the specifications in the rating system.
2. There are sets of rules established by standards setting organizations that define minimum requirements for elements such as energy efficiency or materials.
3. Green building requirements are increasingly being incorporated into national, state/provincial or municipal building codes as legal requirements.

The various green building rating systems, codes and standards vary in the ways wood relates to green building. The most common element is the recognition of the use of certified wood products, however wood may play a role in other categories such as recycled or salvaged materials, local sourcing of materials, specific building techniques, waste minimization, indoor air quality and life cycle assessment (LCA). LCA is an objective, science-based method to evaluate the

environmental impacts of products, assemblies and buildings from resource extraction through all the life stages to the eventual disposal or reuse. (To learn more about LCAs, turn to page 13.) Wood products have been shown to outperform other building materials in terms of embodied energy, greenhouse gas emissions and recyclability.

Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) which are based on a product's LCA data, are becoming the next wave in the world of environmental labelling, providing disclosure of the environmental performance of a product. The Canadian wood products industry is taking a leadership role by adopting EPDs in advance of regulatory requirements. This will help to advance the sustainability cause in the building construction sector and demonstrate its strong environmental values.

Most of the green building rating systems, codes and standards recognize all of the third-party forest certification programs in use in North America, namely the American Tree Farm System (AFTS), the Canadian Standard Association (CSA) Sustainable Forest Management Standards, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC) or the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). One exception to this is the LEED standards which currently only give credit to wood products certified to FSC.

Many federal, state, provincial and municipal governments have enacted green building policies and in some cases laws. For example, the government of BC requires that all new provincially owned or leased buildings are to be built to a minimum LEED Gold standard or equivalent.

The whole 'world' of green building is important for forest professionals to be aware of because as we know, wood is an excellent environmental choice for any building project as long as it is from a sustainable source, like BC's forests. All of these green building rating systems and codes have their eyes on our sustainable forest management practices via their requirements for certified forest products that are a component of their measure of the sustainability of a building. Moving beyond forest certification, LCAs and EPDs evaluate raw material resource extraction as part of their methodology that evaluates the environmental impacts of building materials and building structures from the cradle (forest) to the grave (reuse or landfill). 🌱

Dave Patterson, RPF, is manager, market affairs for Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. FII is a BC government market development agency for forest products. Its mission is to help keep the BC forest sector growing by bringing its products to the world.

Photo: www.naturallywood.com

Green buildings, however, may not equate to sustainable as illustrated by this quote from an architect:

“We need clearer definitions of green and sustainable. Green means “less bad”, whereas sustainable means actually sustainable over the long term. LEED does a great job of creating green buildings. At the platinum level, especially, you get a building that is a lot less bad.”

VOLUNTARY GREEN BUILDING RATING SYSTEMS

Green building rating systems help consumers determine a structure's level of environmental performance. They award credits for optional building features that support green design in categories such as location and maintenance of building site, conservation of water, energy, and building materials, and occupant comfort and health.

Building Research Establishment Group Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) (www.breeam.org) is an

environmental assessment method for buildings. It was established in the United Kingdom in 1990 as a tool to measure the sustainability of new commercial buildings by using a straightforward scoring system supported by research. It is the basis for other rating systems that followed, such as those listed below. With more than 200,000 certified buildings, it is the most widely used green building system in the world.

Green Globes—operated in Canada by ECD Jones Lang LaSalle (www.greenglobes.com) and in the United States by the Green Building Initiative (www.thegbi.org)—is a web-based application that helps building professionals assess the environmental performance of new construction and renovation projects for commercial buildings.

Green Building Assessment Protocol for Commercial Buildings (ANSI/CGI 01-2010) was derived from Green Globes by the Green Building Initiative (www.thegbi.org) and applies to new or existing structures. The standard was approved by the American National Standards Institute in 2010 and is currently being adapted for use as a web-based tool to replace Green Globes.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) was developed by the US Green Building Council (www.usgbc.org). LEED has many modules covering building design and construction, existing building operation, homes and neighbourhood development. The USGBC reports that it has 29,729 LEED-certified projects. LEED Canada is a parallel set of rating systems adapted by the Canada Green Building Council (www.cagbc.org) to Canadian climate, construction practices and regulations.

Built Green is a voluntary program for residential construction that was started in the United States by local home builders. It is managed for Canadian home building associations by Built Green Canada (www.builtgreencanada.ca).

The National Green Building Standard (ANSI/ICC 700-2008) was developed by the National Association of Home Builders (www.nahbgreen.org) for residences. It is an approved American National Standard.

GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS

Green building standards are sets of rules created by standards development organizations that establish minimum requirements for elements of green building such as materials

or heating and cooling. Green building standards are meant to be voluntary, but to use a standard's label, all its requirements must be met.

R-2000 is a voluntary national standard operated by Natural Resources Canada that specifies requirements for energy use, indoor air quality, and environmental responsibility.

ENERGY STAR is a single-issue energy standard created by the US Environmental Protection Agency and adapted and managed in Canada by Natural Resources Canada. Products carrying the ENERGY STAR label must meet the requirements of Canada's Energy Efficiency Regulations (see later) as well as provincial and territorial requirements. ENERGY STAR specifications have been developed for a wide range of products, including homes.

GREEN BUILDING CODES

Green building codes are sets of rules written in language that can be adopted as part of a building code.

The International Code Council (ICC) (www.iccsafe.org) has drafted the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) to complement its International Building Code, which has been adopted as regulation in most of the United States. The IgCC is expected to be published in March 2012.

California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) (www.bsc.ca.gov/CALGreen) became mandatory for new buildings in California in January 2011.



BC's Secondary Wood Products: A Well Kept Secret

THERE IS A LOT OF DEMAND AMONG BUILDING DESIGN professionals for innovative finishes and structural systems that make use of local wood products.

Architects, engineers, interior designers, industrial designers and millworkers all find inspiration in the colour, grain and textures of wood. We're paying keen attention to new developments in building materials and finishes being showcased at an international level.

Designers would be completely willing to use locally-produced secondary wood products if only they were available. However, most building design professionals are unaware of most of the locally manufactured secondary products. Because of this, building design professionals use imported products instead.

Through writing this article, I discovered that BC does have a secondary wood product market. Individual companies and BC Wood, a not-for-profit trade association that represents British Columbia's value-added wood products industry, are starting to market to architects but they hadn't reached me yet.

These new secondary wood products, local or foreign, generally fall into two different categories: structural products and building finishes.

Structural Products

Organizations like Forintek (now known as FPInnovations) at UBC provide architects and engineers with valuable research into the use of wood products in structural systems within buildings. Newer construction methods such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) panels and glued laminated timber (glulam) allow the use of wood framing on buildings taller than six storeys. One real wood product triumph is Murray Grove in London, England. It's a ten storey tall building, constructed entirely from CLT panels.

In the process of writing this article, I found several companies whose products I have already used on past projects.

CANADIAN SUSTAINABLE TIMBER INNOVATIONS

NEW WESTMINSTER

CST Innovations was formed from Canfor Corporation's Wood Research and Development Centre in 2007. They have been focused on CLT



Structurlam's facility in Penticton uses CNC technology from Europe.

since 2008 and in production since 2009. Since then, they have completed numerous projects for demonstration, academic, commercial, and research and development purposes. CST Innovations' aim is to increase the sustainable use of forest resources and bring a new frontier of innovation to North American construction practices.

FRASERWOOD INDUSTRIES SQUAMISH

Founded in 1998, FraserWood is an experienced and respected provider of timber products and services. From their 50,000 square-foot fabrication facility, FraserWood optimizes glue laminate (glulams) and solid-sawn timbers for commercial and residential applications. They've been committed to expanding the potential of solid-sawn, engineered and heavy timbers and have successfully helped clients reach new heights in the area of timber-related construction.

STRUCTURLAM PRODUCTS PENTICTON

Originally a construction company owned by two brothers back in the 1960s, Structurlam is now recognized around the world for its quality products and ability to fabricate the most complex designs. In 2000, Structurlam aggressively automated its production with the



Cross-laminated timber competes with concrete as a building material.

purchase of European CNC technology and then, in 2008, they invested in a new production facility—nearly tripling their capacity. Structurlam offers four products: glulam, cross-laminated timber, Parallam® and solid sawn timbers.

Finishes

European wood-fibre finish products are well-known and well-loved by the building design industry. But, being European, none of them are manufactured on this continent.

Trespa, Rieder, Prodema, and Parklex are overseas corporations who manufacture exterior and interior wall finish panels that are highly sought after by building designers for their rich and sophisticated appearance. These panels are generally of composite



All photos courtesy of Structuriam

These 130 ft glulam arches made from Douglas-fir span Kingsway in Burnaby and support a pedestrian walkway.

construction where wood fibers are impregnated with a binder such as phenolic resins and then faced with a durable finish. They are available in a wide range of finishes and most have a lifespan in the 50-year range.

However, the problem with using these products is twofold. First, importing them is expensive and potentially fraught with delays. Second, the use of products that are sourced and manufactured halfway around the world from the building's location is an unsustainable practice and will detract from a building's scoring under green building rating systems such as LEED.

As with the structural products, I have discovered companies right here in BC that are producing building finishes from secondary wood products. I already knew about Corelam, a company based in Vancouver. Corelam manufactures interior and furniture finishing panels with unique properties, such as sound attenuation and a sophisticated design aesthetic. Here are two others that caught my eye.

CEDARLAND FOREST PRODUCTS LTD.

MAPLE RIDGE

Cedarland has been manufacturing and delivering product from its 35,000 square foot facility since 1975. Products are produced with the highest quality standard from PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) certified forest for various end uses such as interior paneling and exterior cladding for commercial, resort and residential construction. Western red cedar is prized for its natural durability, stability, insulation value,

richness of grain, texture and colour. Cedarland Forest Products delivers unique tailored-made solutions to its customers.

WOODTONE

VANCOUVER

Woodtone is a leader in value-add wood manufacturer, beautifying building exteriors across North America for over 30 years. Their specialty lies in high-grade, factory-coated exterior wood products manufactured from the renewable forests of western Canada. From siding and trim to columns and corners, Woodtone produces quality products offering a one step solution to eliminating builder call-backs and improving curb appeal of buildings in the residential and commercial market.

It is heartening to see government and industry groups working to develop the secondary wood product industry. And I would like to see that scope broadened even more. Millions of square feet of building interiors and exteriors are clad with a variety of non-wood products each year. It's my hope that in future years, research and development of secondary wood products for the building industry becomes even more a market reality, and we will see these products in the buildings we design, build and use every day. 🐾

Wes is a project manager with Craven Huston Powers Architects in Chilliwack, B.C. and an instructor in the Architecture & Building Engineering Technologies program at BCIT.



BC Architects: Thinking About Wood

Helen Goodland
BRANTWOOD CONSULTING



1. What types of buildings do you typically design in wood and what is wood's role in those designs?

I don't do design myself. I provide advice to those who do—across the country and around the world. As such, I guide the development of a wide range of building types from affordable housing projects to exclusive world class hotel chains. Currently, I am also guiding BCIT's "Greening the Trades" initiative. We're reviewing the latest innovative/green techniques for inclusion in the trade apprenticeships and training programs.

I am familiar with the environmental, economic and social benefits of wood and encourage the use of wood where possible. My recommendations have evolved over time in line with greater awareness of the value of life cycle assessment and the upstream impacts of material choices. As such, I am a proponent of wood (and the use of as much wood as possible) on condition it is from replenished sources. This is becoming increasingly interesting with the advent of engineered heavy timber systems such as CLT (cross-laminated timber). I look for strong forest management standards that are well enforced. This latter seems a problem right now.

2. Why do you choose wood?

Simply, it is the only building material with the potential to be carbon positive. It is non-toxic, vitalizes our local economy and also, assuming strictly enforced forestry management, protects our natural ecosystems. Other than bamboo and wool, there are no other materials that come close.

I don't believe we have tapped into the full potential of wood, even now. Wood welding and powder coating techniques are on the way. I am now looking forward to making wood see-through—perhaps some way of

refining and polishing resins? What about activated chlorophyll in structures so electricity can be generated? Oh, and wood is gorgeous.

3. What do you see as issues that will affect wood use, for better or for worse, in design and construction?

BC has been slow to invest in value-added manufacturing and services. We are good at cutting down trees but then we ship them to other countries to produce high performance window frames. We are not building awareness of the value of locally produced products.

Life-cycle analysis (LCA) has to become a metric for material choice. It can be a policy tool to help cities report on how green their building stock is. They can start with simple reports for structures and then move on to envelope, finishes, equipment, etc. as they get more comfortable with the system.

The plight of tropical forests is alarming. We have to support the transition to better management practices in the small wood lots of Africa, Indonesia and South America. Industry is woefully ill-educated in how to specify tropical wood. (How do we know it is legal? Ethical? Replenished?) As such, deforestation is accelerating due to a collapsing hardwood market.

It is always interesting to consider knowledge gaps. While there are engineers who get nervous around wood, I am always interested to see how many of the advocates and NGOs (non-governmental organizations) like to promote concrete and cement and remove

as much wood as possible. Advanced framing, a variety of techniques designed to reduce the amount of lumber used and waste generated in the construction of a wood-framed house, is an interesting concept much loved by advocacy groups when wood is being substituted for urethane and cyanurate foams. However, these materials are toxic and energy intensive to produce. Again, it is the upstream impacts that are not fully understood.

It would be interesting to conduct a study about how much greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced if wood was used wherever possible—CLT, wood window frames and doors, cellulose insulation, interior panelling and flooring, etc. How many tankers would a wood-based building industry take out of the ocean? We need to get that 30 storey high-rise wood building out of the ground ASAP.



Larry McFarland

MCFARLAND MARCEAU ARCHITECTS



Completed in 2005, the operations centre for the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve was Canada's first LEED Platinum certified building. It relies on glulam beams and columns for the main structural support.

1. What types of buildings do you typically design in wood and what is wood's role in those designs?

The McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd. (MMAL) practice focuses largely on the design of institutional facilities including schools, colleges, universities, municipal buildings and small healthcare facilities. Wood typically is used for the structure, exterior cladding and interior finishes.



The firm's focus on wood is largely the result of our long working relationship with First Nations clients, the increasing requests for sustainable building construction and the fact that wood creates a very pleasant building environment. Our clients see the use of wood as a commitment to the environment which they make on behalf of their building users/taxpayers. At this point in our practice, wood is the first material we consider for a structure.

2. Why do you choose wood?

The use of wood makes our buildings sustainable, exciting to be in and beautiful. In the past 10 years, the use of wood in the Good Design awards has increased ten-fold.

3. What do you see as issues that will affect wood use, for better or for worse, in design and construction?

It is important to continue to educate the design industry, building owners and the public on the environmental, social and capital cost implications of their decisions. I think legislation that refers to least environmental impact would be good.



Michael Green

MCFARLANE GREEN BIGGAR



1. What types of buildings do you typically design in wood and what is wood's role in those designs?

Wood is the most significant building material we use today that is grown by the sun. When harvested responsibly wood is arguably one of the best tools architects and engineers have in reducing emissions and storing carbon in our buildings. Each project we design tries to expand the discussion of where we will see wood and specifically mass timber in the future. My passion is for innovation to solve real problems. Wood is the realm of opportunity for new ideas from structures to cladding to furniture. What's not to love about a material that is manufactured by nature; a material that is renewable, durable and strong, a material that is always beautiful and unique?

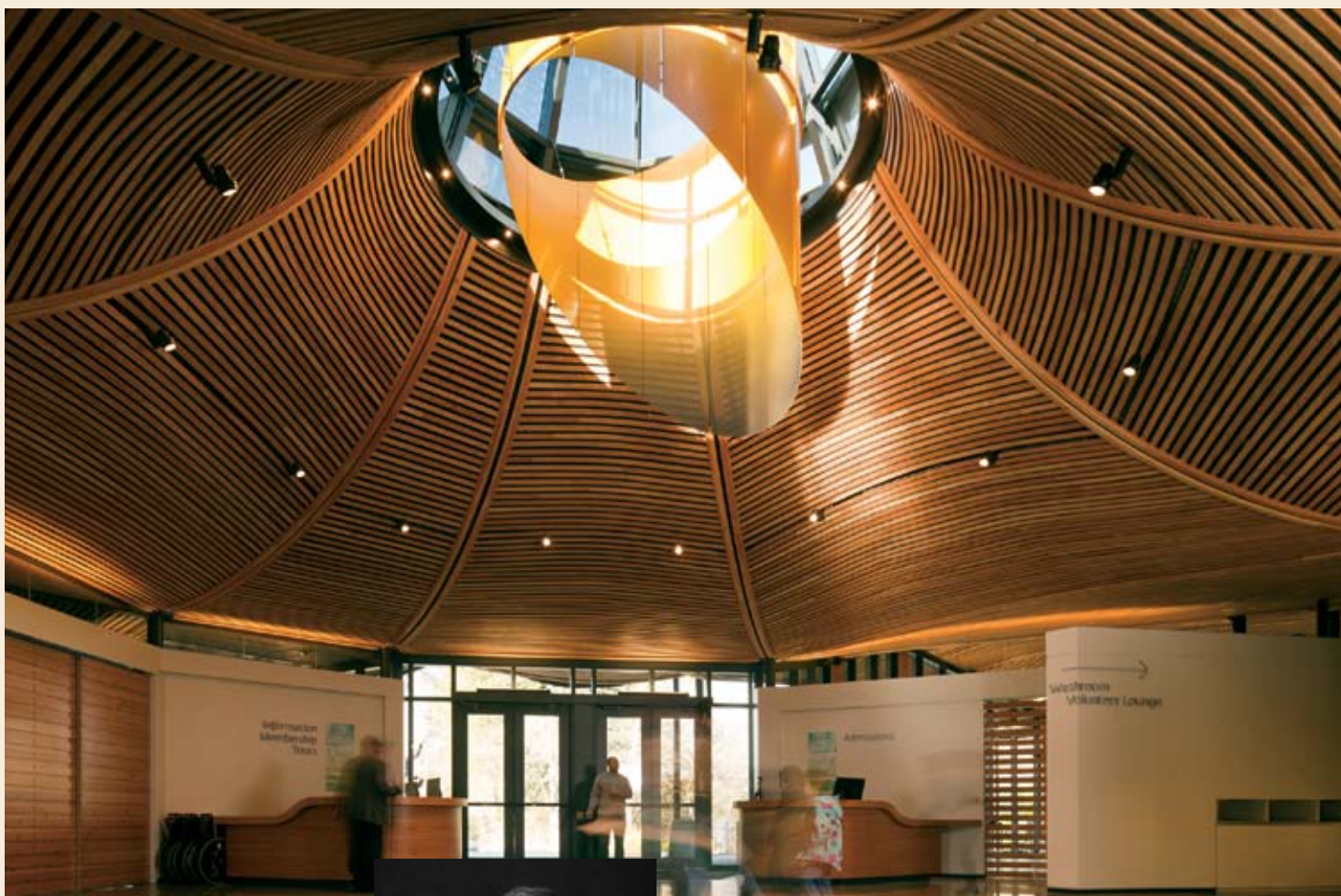
2. Why do you choose wood?

Our job as architects is to enhance our communities with the buildings we design. While many people feel they need to add to structures to make them work, I believe we need to take away that which is extraneous to our needs and aspirations for the building. Wood is incredibly efficient and accomplishes so much when it is used properly. It fulfills both structural and architectural functions while enhancing aesthetics, and indoor air quality, acoustics and more. All it asks in return is that we design appropriately and efficiently so it can perform for generations.

3. What do you see as issues that will affect wood use, for better or for worse, in design and construction?

There is an awakening among designers that we must be responsible for what we design and to reduce not only the impacts of operation but the impacts from construction of buildings. Carbon. Energy. Water. The Environment. With wood, you've got the only structural material that is grown efficiently using solar power. It takes carbon out of the atmosphere and gives us oxygen. It doesn't take a lot of energy to process and, with some of the new materials being developed and used around the world, the mass timber products like CLT (cross-laminated lumber), LVL (laminated veneer lumber) and LSL (laminated strand lumber), we will be able to design a greater range of large buildings. I believe that this is one of the most exciting times to be an architect. We have not had a new major structure to play with in a century. New ways of building with wood are starting to change the nature of design and possibility. It is fun to imagine what we will see in the next few decades and the systemic change that is just beginning to surface.

Here is an image of a high-rise building Michael would like to see built soon. "New ways of building with wood are starting to change the nature of design and possibility," said Michael. "It is fun to imagine what we will see in the next few decades."



Peter Busby

PERKINS + WILL ARCHITECTS

1. What types of buildings do you typically design in wood and what is wood's role in those designs?

At Perkins + Will Architects, we are trying to design everything in wood! I haven't done a hospital or a high-rise in wood yet, but I'm going to find one. I'm pretty close to doing an office building in wood.

Wood isn't just a decorative material. We can use glulam, cross-laminated timber (CLT) and other products in structural elements, diaphragms and architectural applications—basically, in as many places as possible.

2. Why do you choose wood?

Early on, I didn't use wood at all. I woke up to wood one day about 15 years ago when I got off a plane in the Oslo airport, which is a beautiful wood building. I saw all this wood and I thought, "Oh, I get it. People who grow trees use wood." And they were.

Subsequent to that, I learned about the environmental benefits of wood. Our clients like wood. It is a great material for places like schools. Wood offers warmth and gives humanity a direct



Designed to exceed LEED Platinum status, the VanDusen Botanical Garden Visitor Centre uses on-site, renewable sources to achieve net-zero energy on an annual basis; sequesters enough carbon to achieve carbon neutrality; uses filtered rainwater for the building's greywater requirements; and treats 100% of blackwater in an on-site bioreactor.

connection to nature. There's a softness to it. And I'm intrigued by how far we can push it in design. The mountain pine beetle epidemic in BC also means we have a responsibility to use it here. And the industry is responding to our demands to use it.

Why wood? Carbon sequestration. It's really the only possible way to achieve a carbon neutral building. It is a distinctive material and there are a surprising number of things you can do with it structurally. And it can go up quickly, as we saw in our building at UBC.

3. What do you see as issues that will affect wood use, for better or for worse, in design and construction?

I think we're going to see more wood used in the future. We're finding ways around code and structural limitations with new engineered products like CLT (cross-laminated timber) along with better fire prevention techniques. New manufacturing processes and products can allow us to use wood like never before.

I think we'll also see more sophisticated fire engineering that allows wood in combustible and non-combustible construction. Hopefully we can design and build that 1,000-year-old temple. Why not in BC?

Finally, I'd also like to see us go back to doing things in wood that we used to do. Why not a curtain wall in wood? We did it here in the 1950s. Why not now? 🐾

Boundaries of Discipline under the *Foresters Act*

AS PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED IN THIS SPACE, THE DISCIPLINE OF PROFESSIONAL misconduct is where the rubber hits the road for the Association of BC Forest Professionals' existence as a self-governing profession. The ABCFP has no inherent right to govern the practice of forestry: its authority is derived from the BC Legislature. And what the Legislature gives the Legislature can take away. We recently witnessed this with the legislative obliteration of the BC College of Teachers under the *Teachers Act* this past fall, largely on account of perceived difficulties with that body's discipline process. Discipline is the fundamental consideration that any self-governing profession must provide to the State in exchange for the authority to govern the profession.

Unfortunately, the importance of discipline sometimes causes the public (or even members of the ABCFP) to presume that the ABCFP's scope for discipline is limitless. It is not. The Legislature has set boundaries for the ABCFP's discipline under section 22 of the *Foresters Act* (the Act), and the Association has no lawful jurisdiction to discipline beyond these boundaries.

While seldom black-and-white, the ABCFP's jurisdiction to discipline its members is often relatively straightforward. For example, under section 22(1)(c) of the Act, a member may attract discipline if the member contravenes the Act, bylaws or resolutions. In other cases, the line becomes more blurred. Under section 22(1)(a) of the Act, a member may attract discipline if the member 'incompetently engaged' in the practice of professional forestry.

Difficulties can arise when members disagree on the proper interpretation of some legal requirement in a given context and one member interprets the other members' disagreement as 'incompetence.' Yet, the Legislature is unlikely to have intended to allow a member to use the ABCFP's jurisdiction over professional discipline to resolve a good-faith professional disagreement with another member by resorting to the ABCFP's discipline procedure. While the ABCFP may provide guidance, it is not, itself, competent to resolve matters of legal interpretation and an entire system of administrative tribunals and courts already exist for this purpose.

The ABCFP should spend its limited disciplinary resources on matters that truly relate to the incompetent practice of 'professional forestry' and leave disputes over legal interpretations to those better suited to resolve such disputes.

Still, the most obscure boundary on the ABCFP's disciplinary authority relates to whether a member has engaged in "conduct unbecoming a member" as contemplated in section 22(1)(b) of the Act. The Act defines "conduct unbecoming a member" to include conduct that may (A) bring the ABCFP or its members into disrepute, or (B) undermine principles and methods that are the foundation of 'professional forestry.' Some confuse the former as allowing the ABCFP to discipline its members

for all manner of sins, from sexual and racial harassment through to a member's unpleasant disposition. Again, the Legislature is unlikely to have authorized the ABCFP to discipline its members for this sort of objectionable conduct. For starters, forest professionals have no particular training or expertise to deal with these types of issues, as do our courts and various employment and human rights tribunals. More importantly, the ABCFP's authority to discipline its members relates to the conduct of 'professional forestry,' and what will bring the 'association' into disrepute.

Self-governing professions exist to regulate fields of professional activity that are technical, complex and not easily within the grasp of those outside the profession. Lay persons are not in a position to scrutinize professional activities and must rely upon the professional's say-so. Honesty is therefore integral to the reputation and continued existence of a self-governing profession. While harassment and other similarly objectionable conduct may reflect poorly upon and attract legal consequences for an individual member, conduct with an odour of dishonesty brings professional forestry and the ABCFP into disrepute. It undermines the public's faith in the ABCFP and willingness to trust its members. Dishonesty is the type of "conduct unbecoming a member" that is of concern for the ABCFP. 🐾

Jeff Waatainen is a past adjunct professor of law at UBC, has practised law in the forest sector for over fifteen years, and currently works in the Forestry Law Practice Group of Davis LLP's Vancouver offices.

Editorial Correction

In the conversion of Mr. Waatainen's article, "Bill 6—Certification and Accreditation under the *Foresters Act*" into the publication format for the January/February 2012 issue, several references to the "*Forest Act*" were inadvertently replaced with references to the "*Foresters Act*." Any discussion in Mr. Waatainen's article of woodlot licence boundaries or to sections 105 and 106 should have referenced the "*Forest Act*" and not the "*Foresters Act*."

This was an editorial mistake and the correct version of the article is now available on our website.

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VANCOUVER TORONTO MONTRÉAL CALGARY EDMONTON WHITEHORSE YELLOWKNIFE TOKYO



Voluntary Peer Reviews: Way More Fun Than You'd Think

Photo: iStockPhoto

THE RECENTLY REVISED VOLUNTARY PEER REVIEW (VPR) IS A HANDS-ON professional development tool that's meant to improve a member's professional practice and confidence. It is not an audit. The VPR's main objective is to elevate a member's level of practice through the mentorship and confidential advice offered by a trusted colleague.

So What Exactly is a Voluntary Peer Review?

A voluntary peer review is:

- a conversation between two members about professional responsibilities;
- a review of professionalism;
- an exchange of knowledge, information and ideas;
- an effective process to resolve local professional issues;
- a time efficient exercise that will take a half-day to a day;
- a tool that evaluates member performance against professional standards and obligations; and
- a tool that links to the self-assessment professional development plan.

A voluntary peer review is not:

- a practice, technical or work review;
- an audit of prescriptions or professional decisions;
- a method of critiquing another member;
- about forcing all forest professionals to think alike; or
- about reviewing a member's files looking for something wrong.

Four Big Incentives to Participate in a Peer Review

1 Maintaining Professionalism

First and foremost, it comes from the desire to maintain and increase professionalism. All members have a professional obligation to maintain their competence and it is the ABCFP's obligation to demonstrate that our members are fulfilling this obligation. Participating in a VPR demonstrates a high level of member competence. While it's voluntary, we hope members view the process as part of being a professional.

2 How the VPR Influences Being Randomly Chosen for a Practice Review

Special permit holders and registered members who have been reviewed in a VPR will be exempt from being chosen for a Practice Review for a period of five years.

3 Participation in a VPR counts as credit towards a Voluntary Certificate of Professional Development

Members will be able to claim category one credits for being involved in a VPR as a reviewer or the participant when applying for a voluntary certificate of professional development.

4 ABCFP Annual Forestry Conference Attendance

Members who have participated in a VPR, as the reviewer or the participant, will have their name entered into a draw for one full ABCFP annual forestry conference registration package (excluding transportation and accommodation).



Interest

By Brian Robinson, RPF

I Lived to Tell the Tale: Member Feedback on VPRs



GREG HISLOP, RPF
Federated Co-operatives Ltd.
Canoe

I found the voluntary peer review worthwhile. Here are a few reasons why:

- It motivated me to review existing professional guidance and become more informed.
- I enjoyed learning about another professional's responsibilities and gained insight into life of an independent contractor.
- I was encouraged by my reviewer to coach others based on my experience.



RALPH HAUSOT, RPF
Canadian Forest Products Ltd.
Prince George

If I could give fellow forest professionals some advice it would be to get on with your voluntary peer reviews! If you have been practising since 2006 when the VPRs came into effect and have yet to be reviewed, now is the time.

For several years I tried to get someone to peer-review me; everyone seemed too busy. Finally, last year, another one of my colleagues was more than happy to complete a VPR on me, if in turn I would do the same.

I was pleased with the results of the VPR, which put some speculation on my part about my professional practice at ease—there were no real surprises. I learned that in the opinion of a trusted and well-respected fellow forester, my practice met and in some cases even exceeded expectations from someone practising in my same field. The process was easy to follow. Plan for a day including prep time and wrap up.

I definitely gleaned several ideas for improvement and believe this process helped build upon an already positive working relationship with my colleague. Offering to complete a VPR on a colleague may just get the ball rolling!



BARB WADEY, RPF
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Revelstoke

There were three of us involved: A reviewed B who reviewed C who reviewed A. The three way exchange was nice as we had dialogue with two of our peers instead of just one. We had a great relationship to start with, so I am not sure that it brought us closer together. But the discussion during the review process

was wonderful as you got exposed to different ways of looking at things—be it recordkeeping or philosophy on continuing education. I was worried that my practice would be found deficient in some way, so it was very reassuring to see that I handled things similarly to my peers.

I think the first time you do a peer review it has to be with someone you know really well and trust. That way you are not 'scared' to say what you think. Now that I have completed a peer review I would be willing to review and be reviewed by someone that I do not know as well. In that case I think the process would build a closer working relationship between the peers involved.



SARA COTTER, RPF
Canadian Forest Products Ltd.
Prince George

I found the VPR process valuable in terms of relationship-building with a new colleague and actively reacquainting myself with the various requirements of professional practice. It was very time-effective, especially when conducted concurrently with the annual self-assessment.

I hadn't expected the positive side-effect of learning that my name was drawn, from amongst those who'd completed the VPR in 2011, for free registration to the ABCFP's 2012 Annual Conference & AGM. Overall, the experience was positive on all fronts.

Brian Robinson, RPF, has been director of professional development and member relations for the ABCFP since 2006.

Empire of the Beetle:

How Human Folly and a Tiny Bug Are Killing North America's Great Forests

"The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing that stands in the way. Some see nature all ridicule and deformity ... and some scarce see nature at all. But to the eyes of the man of imagination, nature is imagination itself."

WILLIAM BLAKE, 1799

Empire of the Beetle IS A CHALLENGING BOOK ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP with bark beetles written by Andrew Nikiforuk, an investigative journalist with a penchant for finding personal stories that become thought provoking books. How many Albertans would critique the 'golden egg' oil sands and remain safe as his book *Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent* confronted our complex relationship with bitumen!

Humans look like a quaint evolutionary experiment with limited prospects and the beetles are taking the world back from us according to Andrew Nikiforuk. For forest professionals in the landscapes of the interior western North America, it is a grim time to work, play and live. We have resigned ourselves to the bark beetle entrails manifest as dead trees in varying degrees of decay. But what have we learned and have we become wiser in the aftermath? This book tries to assemble the disparate ways of knowing bark beetles, draws connections and creates an engaging story with startling conclusions.



Andrew Nikiforuk is not a part of our tribe and does not have a professional natural resources education but he weaves an energetic narrative about bark beetles that spans both time and

space. The book is a meditation, a history and a critique of all things bark beetle in western North America and a polemic attack on our present relationship with natural systems. He focuses on the scientific elements of our relationship, but interludes with conversations about economics and social elements at the local level in rural communities. He makes beetles and their biology seem as cool as iPods. As we struggle to engage the urban public about all things forestry, this book should reach a large audience.

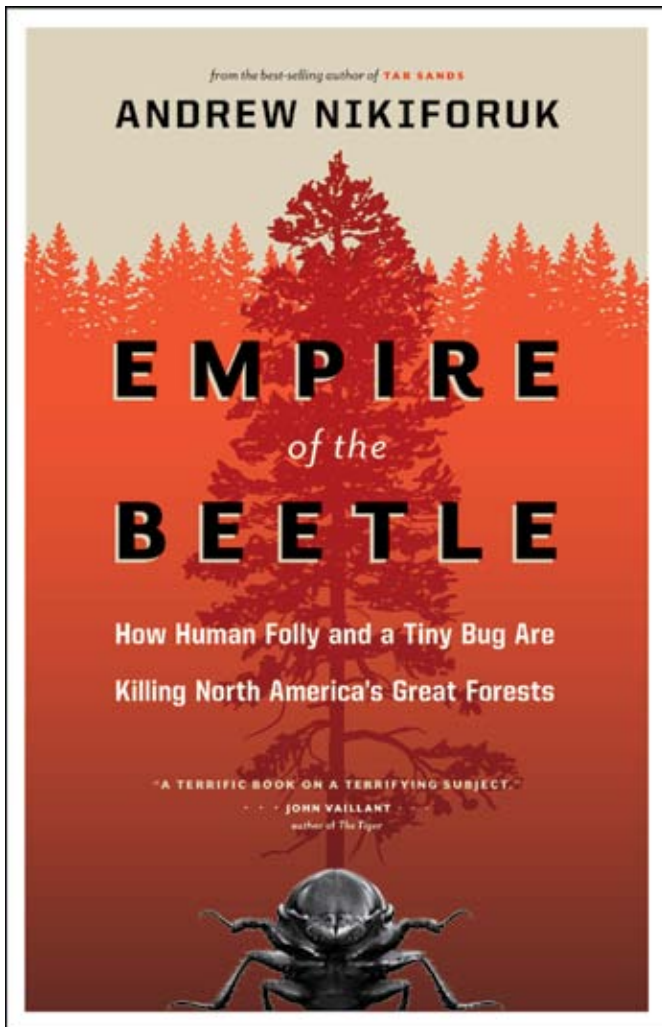
But should we trust his message? He wasn't on the ground as our regional land-use plans became tinder for starting a fire. Where was he when our timber supply was condensed into a 10-year window? Were we not pragmatic in the face of cataclysm and decided proactively to establish a landscape scale salvage program?

Based on conversations with forest scientists, concerned citizens and forest managers, he suggests the challenge resides in overcoming the absence of a reciprocal relationship with forests. We have deliberately divorced ourselves from the real personality of our partner—the land. Human relationships fail regularly and so have relationships with natural systems across western North America at our folly.

The broad conclusions, or new seeds for future natural resource management approaches, are as follows. When we enter a new landscape for resources we are obligated to pay attention, to approach the land as we would a new friend by opening an intelligent conversation. We should stay in one place to make our observations a fully dilated experience. We will be rewarded if we give the land credit for more than we imagine and respect that it is more complex even than language. We will then find a home and find a way to fit into this place. Relationships are not built on impositions, but on propositions. Walk in the forest with eyes and ears open to all conversations.

Upon reading this book you may not agree with this conclusion. Or you may already think and feel this way. I recommend you read this important book and make the wisdom manifest in your professional practice. 🐛

Nathan Davis, RPF, was raised at Spokan Lake on the Cariboo Plateau and remains a resident of Williams Lake, BC. He is a graduate student of Quantitative Silviculture/Forest Ecology in the Department of Forest Ecosystems & Society at Oregon State University. He has practised professional silviculture for 20 years in British Columbia and Washington State. He plans to write an environmental/forest history of the Cariboo-Chilcotin once he completes his academic studies. He can be reached at Thompson Rivers University – Williams Lake Campus at 250.392.8102 or nath.paul.davis@gmail.com.



By Andrew Nikiforuk
 Greystone Books and David Suzuki Foundation
 August 2011
 Paperback, 240 pages
 Eight black and white illustrations
 ISBN 978-1-55365-510-7

THIS POPULIST BOOK, WRITTEN BY A CALGARY JOURNALIST WITH NO training in entomology or forestry, attempts to sell into the North American market by recounting what the author deems are interesting stories about various aspects of bark beetle infestations via liberal use of hyperbole, metaphors, satirical exaggerations and, unfortunately, many error-filled simplifications and incorrect or misleading conclusions.

Nikiforuk criticizes Canadian federal, provincial, and US state governments and slams industry “megacorporations,” the Forest Practices Board and other agencies mainly for their lack of response or mismanagement of various outbreaks. He attempts credibility by interviewing and then paraphrasing numerous researchers and other people, including loggers, involved in bark beetle related work. Some would view his bibliography as substantial. Unfortunately, many of his quotes are simplistic, sensationalistic or partially fabricated. In explaining one of the undersigned’s back yard treatments, Nikiforuk claimed that “gobs” of insecticide had run down the tree which was hardly the case.

Noticeably absent from the interview list are any technicians, specialists, forest licensee representatives (eg Council of Forest Industries of BC) or BC and Alberta government employees tasked with developing and coordinating control strategies of which he is so critical. It would appear that such opposing views would not have suited Nikiforuk’s agenda. Passing along a claim that there were no aerial overview pest surveys undertaken in BC in 1997 and 1998 and that the province “was blind,” the author fails to mention that district-detailed helicopter surveys still continued during this time. Once the infestation got rolling, Nikiforuk then claims that logging trucks “created mini-

epidemics all along the highways.” While there is some evidence of a few minor spread points from roadside rest stops, the author fails to discuss the greater earlier concern of beetle spread around mill yards.

At times, it appears that Nikiforuk has some basic understanding of forest succession, for example, “life goes on after trauma,” but then he counters that by saying “it’s a permanent change in the landscape” and “it will never grow back to what it was.” Regrettably, the literature review is as limited as the interview process. As a result the book contains far too many quotes and ‘facts’ about beetle population dynamics and host adaptation, single-tree control, sanitation harvesting strategies, retention objectives, logging economics, grizzly bear fecundity, woodpecker biology and pesticide impact that are hyperbolic, bombast, simplistic, contradictory, misleading or simply untrue. For example, there is no apparent evidence for the author’s claim that heavy logging traffic “destroyed nearly a billion dollars worth of public roads.”

While we generally agree with the author’s conclusions about the impacts of global warming and fire exclusion on the landscape, he misses the mark on some key facts. For example, he asserts that the main objective of fire suppression is to “protect the province’s timber wealth” but conveniently fails to include the highest priorities of protecting public safety, homes and infrastructure. There are many other factual errors and exaggerations throughout the book. We have only mentioned a handful.

With more balanced input and reasonable editorial review, this book could have been just as entertaining but much more credible and less offensive to forest professionals. Unfortunately, the author’s biases and numerous exaggerations and errors compel us to not recommend it. 🐛

Robert Hodgkinson, MPM, RPF, RPBio, Jennifer Burleigh, MPM, RPF, Art Stock, PhD, RPF, Lorraine Maclauchlan, PhD, RPF, RPBio; and Leo Rankin, MPM, RPF.



Discipline Case Study

Discipline Case: 2011-03

Subject Members: Registered Professional Foresters

Referred to: Complaints Resolution Committee

Date of Decision: May 2011

Allegations

This case resulted from a complaint from one ABCFP member about the conduct of three other ABCFP members. The allegations are that the three members subject to the complaint engaged in unprofessional conduct in the workplace including:

- i. retaliation
- ii. harassment

Decision

The complaint information was reviewed with respect to the ABCFP Bylaws. The Complaints Resolution Committee advised the registrar, that the bylaws of the ABCFP have application to the practice of forestry, but not outside of the practice, in their opinion. This complaint involves workplace-related issues and the interpretation of a union agreement. It does not involve the practice of professional forestry. The registrar concurs with this interpretation and agrees that Bylaws 11 and 12 do not apply to this complaint.

In our opinion the only behaviour that might support a complaint is "conduct unbecoming of a member" in Section 22(1) (b) of the Act. Conduct unbecoming of a member is defined in Section 1 of the Act as:

"conduct unbecoming a member" means conduct of a member that:

- a. brings or may bring the association or its members into disrepute,
- b. undermines the scientific methods and principles that are the foundation of the practice of professional forestry, or
- c. undermines the principles of stewardship that are the foundation of the practice of professional forestry."

Parts (b) and (c) of this definition do not apply to this complaint. That leaves part (a). Could the activities of our members in the workplace be such that it "brings or may bring the association or its members into disrepute"? This is certainly possible depending upon the gravity of the particular situation.

Having been satisfied that the complaint could potentially meet the definition of "conduct unbecoming a member", the registrar and the Complaint Resolution Committee then reviewed the complaint against the four tests required by subsection 22(6) of the *Foresters Act*. These tests require that the registrar must accept a complaint if satisfied that:

- a. the complaint concerns a member or former member,
- b. sufficient information has been provided to allow an investigation to proceed,
- c. the allegations, if proven, involve a breach of this Act, the bylaws or the resolutions of the association, and
- d. the parties cannot resolve the matter on a reasonable and appropriate basis.

The evidence presented did not lead either the registrar or the Complaints Resolution Committee to believe that there was sufficient information to support an investigation into the conduct of the members referenced in the complaint. To have enough evidence to support an investigation we look for documentation and corroboration of the information that supports the complaint. The information to support the complaint included documents from the subject members regarding their actions with respect to the interpretation of the union contract. The interpretation of the contract is not the practice

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Canadian Institute of Forestry
Voice of Forest Practitioners since 1908

The Forestry Chronicle
the national journal for forest practitioners

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of professional forestry and we are not prepared nor authorized to investigate whether this interpretation was in error. The union grievance procedure is the appropriate method to resolve this issue. The complaint also includes documentation of other actions that did not provide enough evidence to support an investigation in our opinion. Therefore, we do not believe that the complaint has not satisfied test (b) above.

Although we note that test (c) above could apply if conduct unbecoming occurred, we believe that there is insufficient evidence that the gravity of the actions would meet the requirements of test (c).

As a result, the registrar did not accept this complaint.

The concerns raised were taken forward to the union involved, and a grievance has been filed. In our opinion this is the proper action. Should this result in sanctions against an ABCFP member, the ABCFP reserves the right to review this finding against the requirements of our act.

Membership Statistics

ABCFP—January 2012

NEW REGISTERED MEMBERS

Stefan Oliver Borge, RFT
Chad John Yurich, RPF

NEW ENROLLED MEMBERS

Brendan Michael Flanagan, TFT
Tracy Lea Godin, FIT
Kevin John Heidt, TFT
Riley James Kelly, FIT
Jana Aileen Trappl, FIT
Scott Thurston, TFT
Richard August Timm, TFT
Michael James White, FIT

REINSTATEMENTS

Patrick George Ellis, RFT, ATE
Andre Y. Germain, RPF
Mahesh Kumar KC, FIT
Garnet H. Mierau, RPF
Lucian L. Serban, FIT

DECEASED

George C. Warrack, RPF (Ret), Life

The following people are not entitled to practice professional forestry in BC:

NEW RETIRED MEMBERS

Allen Banner, RPF(Ret),RPBio
Roxton Chan, RPF (Ret)
Arne Dohlen, RPF(Ret)
K. Neil MacLennan, RPF (Ret)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Drew Marshall Alway, RPF(on LOA)
Michael Scott Aspeslet, RFT(on LOA)
A. Paul Blueschke, RPF(on LOA)
Rhonda Lori Dougherty, RFT(on LOA)
Jill G. Dunbar, RPF(on LOA)
Mark D. Gillis, RPF(on LOA)
Alan Herman Glencross, RFT(on LOA)
David Arnold Jansen, RFT(on LOA)
Natasha Nicole Kavli, TFT(on LOA)

Indra LaLari, RPF(on LOA)
Sara Anne Lazaruk, RPF(on LOA)
Robert A. Love, RPF(on LOA)
Cassandra Mann, RPF(on LOA)
Michael Mathew R. Shook, RPF(on LOA)
Scott William Wright, FIT(on LOA)

RESIGNATIONS

David N. Cameron
Donald Blake Clutterham, Jr.
William B. Eller
Robert P. Enfield
W. James Gorsline
Gary E. Hill
Peter M. Iwanowskyj
Robert Gerald Jonas
Arthur C. Joyce
Linda J. Keyes
Bruce D. MacNicol
Sylvester John Muraro
Donald Len Parsons
Ross W. Paterson
Richard E. Potter
Bruce T. Sieffert
Richard A. Smith

REMOVALS*

Steven R. Anley
Edward J. Armstrong
Charles Dennis Brown
David Hugh Harrison Carter
Timothy S. Caldwell
Malcolm William Cattanach
Roderick C. Christie
Simon William Cisco
Colleen Ann Cuthbert
Lenore Patricia Curtis
Walter Charles Dagenais
Hugh Joseph Delorey
Nicola Alice Dorans
Duncan W. Dow
Holly Terri Marie Edwards
Douglas William Glen Erickson
Leo Paul Fauchon
Beverly Ann Frittenburg
Noel Peter Gairdner
Christoph Paul Gebauer
Shauneen Ann Gibbons
Brian G. Harding
Douglas P. Harris
Debora Joan Harrison

Timothy Donald Heemskerck
Bradley Damon Heatherington
Kevin Jock Honeyman
Maureen Frances Hopkins
Jason Wesley Howard
Muhammad Israr
Paul W. Jeakins
Donald James Johnson
Fred Kalmakoff
Gregory Schawn Kinnear
Daniel Jacob LaFleur
Thomas Edward Lacey
Eddison Benjamin Lee-Johnson
Julie Rae Maitland
Asa J. W. MacLaurin
John Brian McGuire
Kent Arthur McLeod
Alan A. McLeod
Stanley William Menduk
Mika Flora Meyer
Marvin G. Nowlin
Daniel Palanio
Eros R. Pavan
Denis Pelletier
Andrew Richard Penney
Tanya Ann Petri
Aaron Michael George Phillips
Lee C. Pond
Kevin Frederick Raynes
Robert W. Richkum
Bruce A. Ross
Marsden Andrew Roth
Miki Sakamoto
Bill Francis Stephen
Jay William Shumaker
Clayton D. Smith
Larry Lesly Taylor
Norman Bertram Tennant
John Roger Trevor
Luc C.J Turgeon
Cindy Jane Verschoor
Bodo Von Schilling
Kenneth John Walsh
Brian William Watson
Wade James Watson
Jerry R. Wearing
Janice Mae Weymer
Michael Paul White
Richard Andrew Whittall
Stefan Samuel Zirnhelt
Henry Yang

* People listed under Removals may have applied for reinstatement since the time of printing.

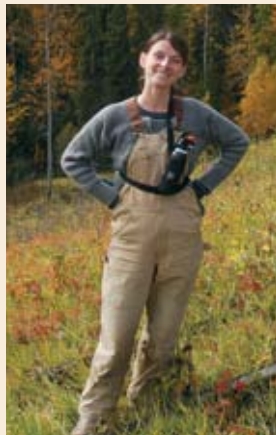
In Memorium

It is very important to many members to receive word of the passing of a colleague. Members have the opportunity to publish their memories by sending photos and obituaries to **BC Forest Professional**. The association sends condolences to the family and friends of the following members:

Stephanie Mary Wilkie

RPF #4712
1983 - 2011

Stephanie Mary Wilkie was born on September 30, 1983 in Owen Sound, Ontario. She slipped the surly bonds of Earth on July 20, 2011, in Fort Nelson, BC, while on maternity leave from the BC Forest Service. She leaves to mourn the love of her life, Nathan, and their two daughters, Rya (3) and Reid (6 months), as well as Stephanie and Nathan's loving families in Ontario. Stephanie will be sadly missed by the Fort Nelson Forest Service office and the community of Fort Nelson. She exhibited kindness, enthusiasm, *joie de vivre* and a passion for forestry.



Stephanie loved trees, as evident in the posters on her walls and the many tree books on her shelves. She also appreciated bugs, fungus, moss, animals, soil—she saw value in all forest components. Stephanie shared her love of the forest with anyone who would listen, especially children.

Stephanie explored the forests of BC and Ontario through the many recreational activities she enjoyed, including hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, quadding and geocaching. It seemed she would rather be in the woods than anywhere else.

Stephanie was very proud the day she became an RPF in BC after months of studying while working full time and raising her first daughter. However, with her inherent commitment to professional integrity and sustainable land management, Stephanie was a professional forester at heart long before she achieved her designation.

Stephanie's spirit and memory live on in the many trees that have been planted throughout the country in her honour.

Submitted by Victoria Kress, RPF

I first met Stephanie while attending Lakehead University. Stephanie was bright, modest and most of all a free spirit that appreciated not just the natural environment, but life itself. During our four years in University, Stephanie was focused and driven to excel in her studies, and this was only solidified by her many accomplishments. Stephanie left university with a First Class Standing Honours Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree and the Gold Medal from the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

Not long after she finished her studies, Stephanie moved to Fort Nelson, BC, to work with Canfor. She fell in love with Fort Nelson and knew with mill closures in sight she had to find work elsewhere. Luckily she found employment with the Ministry of Forests. Stephanie was driven to share her passion of the natural environment with the community of Fort Nelson, carting around her impressive insect collection to every school tour of the town's demonstration forest. While raising her family, Stephanie worked diligently studying for her RPF. Then in late November 2010, Stephanie gained her RPF with the Association of BC Forest Professionals.

Although Stephanie's time on this earth was short, it was indeed full. They say that each soul has a purpose; Stephanie's purpose was to teach each and every person she encountered that everything is interconnected; by affecting one you affect many others; may it be in a positive or in a negative way. Stephanie believed in the positive. I can only hope that her message lives on.

Submitted by Michelle Edwards

During 2009-10, I was Stephanie's local manager at the Fort Nelson Forest District, and also had the honour of being the sponsoring forester for her RPF. During that time, we had more than a few conversations about forestry matters. I know that as a forester and land manager she understood and espoused the concept of leaving the land in better shape than you found it, keeping it healthy and (sustainably) productive for future generations.

Stephanie not only believed in the stewardship ethic, she lived it daily. This was constantly evident in our Forest Service office through her involvement with the 'green team' and her commitment to recycling our office's paper, cans and plastics (and making sure our staff took their turns in delivering it to the recycling depot). She made us aware of, and encouraged our involvement in such things as Earth Day activities. We are all beneficiaries of having been exposed to her unwavering optimism that small actions can affect large scale change.

Stephanie was an outstanding forester. Whether it was her work on the District's Fire Management Plan, Forest Health Strategy, FREP (Forest and Range Evaluation Program) or any number of other important tasks, she never failed to use her talents to produce something exceptional. It wasn't all about work however, as Stephanie always had time for family, colleagues, friends and community—whether it was being a loving partner and mother, lending a hand or an ear to a friend, or a conducting a field day with the local school kids.

The energy, enthusiasm and idealism she demonstrated on a daily basis in life and profession has been, and continues to be, an inspiration to me and all who knew her.

Submitted by Greg Belyea, RPF

Ralph Louis Schmidt

RPF(RET) #181, LIFE MEMBER
1925 - 2012



Ralph Schmidt was born in 1925 in Cudworth, Saskatchewan, and passed away in early January 2012 in Victoria, BC.

After completing high school, he travelled west and worked at Camp 6 (Lake Cowichan) and at the Alaska Pine sawmill (New Westminster). In 1943, Ralph joined the RCAF and trained as an air gunner. Following the war, Ralph studied forestry at UBC, graduated with honours in 1949 and joined the BCFS Research Division. While in the early stages of his provincial forest research career, he undertook postgraduate studies at Oxford University.

During Ralph's early research career, which included postgraduate studies at Oxford University, he conducted regional ecological surveys spanning much of the BC coast. Observations on the occurrence of both tree and plant indicator species were made and some likely explanatory factors were identified (e.g. fire history, climatic factors and topography). He undertook intensive studies to contrast montane climate with valley-bottom data and established species trials on the west coast of Vancouver Island, followed by a range-wide study of Douglas-fir provenances with seedlings planted on test sites throughout the coastal range of the species. The results, in terms of survival and growth, helped to guide seed transfer and the delineation of breeding and seed orchard planning zones on the coast—information critical to the success of a rapidly expanding reforestation program.

As director of the Research Branch, Ralph provided strong support for early BCFS research on non-timber topics such as wildlife, fish, soils and ecology.

Following his retirement in 1982, Ralph researched and documented BCFS research history, culminating in the 2006 publication of *An Early History of the Research Branch, British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range*. He then pursued his passion for creative writing, publishing *Pennies from Heaven* in 2005—humorous stories from depression-era Saskatchewan. He especially enjoyed interviewing old-timers and documenting their experiences and insights as the basis for his writings. Ralph continued to work on his memoirs until his passing.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Jane, four sons and their families.

Within the BC forestry profession, he will be remembered as having made significant contributions to the advancement of forest practices in BC through his own research and as a research leader. His former colleagues and staff fondly remember his personable nature, good humour, and how he brightened-up many meetings, field trips and get-togethers.

Submitted by Doug Rickson, RPF

George Clark Warrack

RPF(RET) #20, LIFE MEMBER
1919 - 2011



George Warrack passed away in Comox, BC, on December 14, 2011. He was born in 1919 in Aberdeen, Scotland, attended the University of Aberdeen and graduated with a degree in forestry in 1941. He enlisted in the Royal Air Force and later transferred to the British Army, serving in India.

In 1947, George was engaged as a research silviculturist in the Research Division of the BC Forest Service. Initially, he was tasked with the administration and development of Cowichan Lake Research Station, completing a comprehensive working plan in 1951. His reputation as a mensurationist was based on his work not only with existing thinning experiments but also with the establishment of new trials, primarily in coastal Douglas-fir. It deserves mention that George pioneered thinning research in red alder as early as 1948—foresight indeed!

George completed his Masters degree from Ann Arbor Michigan in 1959. As program supervisor in 1962, George provided ideas, support and encouragement to all BCFS research staff and recognized the need for an integrated, cooperative approach to addressing research needs. He was director of research from 1971 until his retirement in 1978. This was a period of unprecedented growth in research, to address not only forest growth on a declining commercial land-base, but also emerging environmental resource management issues. Much of this was built on cooperation, fostered between and within levels of government, industry, academic and other research agencies. George contributed to the organization of cooperative bodies such as the Forest Research Council, Forest Productivity Committee, Tree Improvement Council and other inter-agency councils and committees.

Those of us involved in research at this time feel we were fortunate to have George's positive and steady hand on the helm and his retirement left us with a strong foundation for the ensuing decade.

George was predeceased by his wife Winifred, (1991), and is survived by his two daughters and son-in-laws, and five grandchildren.

Submitted by Keith Illingworth, RPF(Ret), Life Member, and Henry Benskin, RPF(Ret)

A Moment in Forestry

Submit your moment in forestry to Brenda Martin at: editor@abcfp.ca



West Coast Logging

Submitted by Marty Gage. Photo by Angela M. Smith

This was taken on the southwest point of Botel Peninsula on the northwest of Vancouver Island.
The young man in the photo is Tyler Hewlitt, a chaser on a grapple yarder.



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