



Newsletter

What's new...

On September 10th and 11th Aleza Lake Research Forest Society, UNBC, UBC, BC Ministry of Forests and Range, and FORREX hosted a workshop titled *LiDAR and Large Scale Digital Photography: Applications in Natural Resource Management*. The workshop included presentations, a lab session and a field tour at the Research Forest. Approximately 50 participants and presenters attended the event including professionals from Ontario, Alberta and BC.

The trailhead for the new North Ridge Trail is now complete with a new parking lot and a kiosk at the Research Forest entrance. The kiosk will serve as a meeting place and message board where maps and other information will be posted starting in spring 2009. This winter, an interpretive program and brochures will be developed for the trail with funding from the Forestry Awareness in Canada Trust (Canadian Institute of Forestry).

On September 20, the ALRF Society, with support from Integrus Credit Union, hosted a barbeque at the Research Forest to promote the new North Ridge trail to local residents and recreation groups. Twenty-five people attended including several directors from the ALRF board, who helped cook lunch and shuttled our guests around the forest!

UNBC Forestry students are leaving their legacy on the Research Forest. With ALRF manager, Mike Jull, teaching the lab component of the Silviculture 305 course in the fall, one of the student projects was to develop a site plan for a partial cut block to be harvested at ALRF this winter. A February field trip will allow the students to see the results of their work.



ALRF visitors enjoy a barbeque at First Annual ALRF Open House, September 20, 2008.
(Photo Credit: K. Olson, 2008)



Hikers take a walk along the new North Ridge Trail
(Photo credit: P. Hvezda, 2008)

Aleza Lake Research Forest • Phone: 250.960.6339 • Fax: 250.960.5851 • Web: <http://alrf.unbc.ca>
Mailing Address: 3333 University Way, Prince George, BC, V2N 4Z9 • Location: I.K. Barber Enhanced Forestry Laboratory Building

The Aleza Lake Research Forest Society is a not-for-profit organization, mainly self-funded through timber harvesting, and is co-managed by the University of British Columbia and the University of Northern British Columbia.

ALRF Research and Teaching Opportunities: Climate Monitoring

Monitoring climate change in a variety of ecosystems is an increasingly important task. Changes in weather patterns gradually impact tree growth, hydrology, pests, pathogens, and wildlife habitat.

The Research Forest has a long legacy with climate data collection. In 1952, the BC Forest Service established a weather station at the former Aleza Lake Ranger Station (located about 1/2km east of the current ALRF entrance). This station was active until 1980 when District staff were centralized to Prince George and the station was shut down. In the early 1990s, the Forest Service established two climate stations at the Research Forest: an open air station located in a plantation approximately 3 kms south of the old Ranger Station; the second within an old growth spruce balsam stand located with the BC Parks Ecological Reserve No. 84.

Since its inception in 2001 the Aleza Lake Research Forest Society has managed the maintenance of these sites. From 2004 to the present, the BC Forest Science Program has funded the maintenance which includes ongoing upgrades to the equipment, bi-annual data downloading, and most recently, improvements to data management and accessibility.

Starting in 2008, ALRF has been working to develop online capacity that will improve access to ALRF climate data to researchers. Phase 1 of this project is currently in effect where data up to 2005 is available in spread sheet format by registering online at <http://alrf.unbc.ca/data/>. Phase 2 is nearing completion where current and future data will be accessible in a variety of formats to students, faculty, climatologists and climate modelers.



*Open air weather tower located at Aleza Lake Research Forest.
(Photo credit: MJull, ND)*

Field equipment improvements in 2008 include the addition of a precipitation snow gauge to the open air station, as well as developing a calibration system to link the old Ranger Station data with the newer open air station data.

There are many opportunities to integrate this long-term data collection with other long-term and short-term research at ALRF or in the Region. For more information contact the ALRF Project Coordinator, Melanie Karjala, karjal0@unbc.ca.

Do you have a passion for forest history? Coming Soon: The Forest History Association of BC

The Aleza Lake Research Forest Society and the Northern BC Archives are co-hosting the Annual General Meeting of the Forest History Association of British Columbia (FHABC) in September 2009. This will be the FHABC's first meeting north of Kamloops, presenting an exciting opportunity to show case the diverse histories of our region.

Formed in 1982, the FHABC's interests cover a wide spectrum - from the history of people and machines to the evolution of forest resource management and the associated social and political aspects. With a membership of 235, they represent a variety of professions and come from all corners of the province, as well as participation from the western United States and eastern Canada.

FHABC's mandate includes encouraging the collection, preservation, cataloguing, and use of historical material related to the conservation, management, and utilization of the forests of the province. The Association publishes a newsletter containing articles, biographies, lists of new literature, book reviews, notices of meetings, and requests for information from researchers. For more information and to enquire about a membership, visit their website at www.fhabc.org.

Along with this meeting workshop events, displays, and presentations will provide opportunities to share forest history in our region. Those with a passion for history can keep an eye on the ALRFS or UNBC conference websites for more details as planning progresses in 2009. For additional information, contact the ALRF project coordinator, Melanie Karjala, karjala0@unbc.ca, or Head Archivist, Ramona Rose, roserm@unbc.ca.



Rolf Hellenius planting seedlings at the Aleza Lake Experiment Station 1950s. (Photo Credit: BC Archives)



*Lumber production at a local mill. ND.
(Photo Credit: BC Archives)*

Other news...

Volunteers at ALRF: ALRF benefitted from nearly 80 hours of volunteer work this year including trail clearing, plot measurements and report writing. Thanks so much to the fantastic help from the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club, Norton Dowd of Aleza Lake and Midori Mitsutani, UNBC Fish and Wildlife Student.

Field Tour: The Northern Amphibian Monitoring Outpost (www.namos.ca) hosted a UNBC Fish and Wildlife Club field trip to ALRF this fall to search for salamanders, learn about their natural habitat and to become familiar with amphibian data gathering techniques. Thirteen club members participated in the trip.

Stand Management: This fall, with funding from the BC Forests for Tomorrow Program, 47ha were brushed at the Research Forest to improve the productivity of a 26 year old plantation.



*Volunteers from the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club after clearing the new North Ridge Trail.
(Photo Credit: M. Karjala, 2008)*

Aleza Lake Research Forest

STAFF CONTACTS

Manager: **Mike Jull, RPF**
Phone: 250.960.6674
Email: jullm@unbc.ca

Project Coordinator: **Melanie Karjala, MNRES**
Phone: 250.960.6338
Email: karjal0@unbc.ca

Operations Forester: **Ralph Hausot, RPF**
Phone: 250.960.5322
Email: hausot@unbc.ca

Office Administrator: **Kathleen Olson**
Phone: 250.960.6339
Email: olson@unbc.ca

Phone: 250.960.6339 • Fax: 250.960.5851
Address: 3333 University Way, Prince George, BC • V2N 4Z9
Location: I.K. Barber Enhanced Forestry Laboratory Building
Website: <http://alrf.unbc.ca>

BC Research Forest Project Database:
<http://www.rpd.forestry.ubc.ca>




Aleza Lake Research Forest

Aleza Lake Research Forest Society

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: **Peter Forsythe, RPF**
Huckleberry Consulting

Secretary/Treasurer: **Ken Day, RPF**
Manager – UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest

Director: **Oscar Garcia, PhD**
Professor, FRBC/West Fraser Chair of Growth and Yield – UNBC Ecosystem Science and Management Program

Director: **Bruce Larson, PhD**
Professor, FRBC Chair of Silviculture – UBC Faculty of Forestry

Director: **Staffan Lindgren, PhD**
Professor – UNBC Ecosystem Science and Management Program

Director: **Wayne Martin, RPF**
Stewardship – BC Ministry of Forests, Northern Interior Region

Director: **Bob Brade**
Ecosystem Biologist – BC Ministry of Environment