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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I beg your indulgence: due to my Master's thesis obligations, I will not have extra time in the coming months to devote to the FHABC. Therefore this edition of the newsletter is a double one. The next issue (the 3rd one for this year) will hopefully come out in late December or early January—all being well on the thesis front. With that being said, welcome to the "Legacy" issue. Newsletter 91/92 is dedicated to cherishing and celebrating legacies. With great appreciation, the FHABC pays tribute to John Robert Long, Lorne Swannell, and Vladimir Krajina—individuals who have made a difference to the practice of forestry in BC. But first we are pleased to announce the arrangements for the AGM; we hope you can make it!



ANNOUNCEMENT: FHABC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

September 30 - October 1, 2011

Vernon , British Columbia

(Details also online: <http://fhabc.org/>)

1. Where

Best Western Plus Vernon Lodge and Conference Centre
3914 - 32nd Street
Vernon, BC V1T 5P1
(250) 545-3755 or Toll Free 1-800-663-4422

2. When

Friday, September 30, 2011
Saturday, October 1, 2011

3. Agenda

Friday , September 30, 2011

travel to Vernon, BC

informal get-together in evening at Best Western Motel

Saturday, October 1, 2011

10:00-11:30 AM - Annual Business meeting. An agenda will be circulated later.

12:00 - 1:00 PM - open lunch

1:00 - 4:00 PM - tour of Kalamalka Seed Orchard

6:00 - 7:00 PM - Informal get-together

7:00 - 10:00 PM - Buffet dinner and guest speaker

Sunday, October 2, 2011

Check out and return home

4. Details

a) Guest Speaker.

Our guest speaker will be Robert Dale of Enderby, BC. He is a native of Enderby and has worked for many years, as has his father and grandfather, in the forest industry of the North Okanagan. He will describe for us river driving on the Shuswap, the early saw milling industry, and horse logging in use at the time. Hopefully, he will be able to illustrate his talk with slides and other pictures. There should be time for questions at the end of his presentation.

b) Hotel

A block of rooms has been reserved at the hotel at a charge of \$91.00 per night. If possible, please reserve your room by September 9th. Mention the Forest History Association when you are reserving your room. Their telephone number is 250-545-3755 or 1-800-663-4422

c) Buffet Dinner

Cost is approximately \$30.00. Please advise me (604) 921-9880) if you have any special dietary needs. Please let me know if you will there for dinner by September 27th so that I can advise the hotel.

d) Hospitality Room

I have arranged for a hospitality room so that we can have a drink, chat, etc. at our leisure. Everyone is welcome.

e) Kalamalka Seed Orchard

Mike Meagher has arranged for a tour of the Seed Orchard and related facilities.

f) Rides

For those travelling up from the Coast, please advise me if you need a ride, will be driving in your own car and can give someone a ride, etc. or are able to make other travel arrangements. I will meet those coming from the Victoria area at Tsawwassen ferry terminal and we can drive up to Vernon together arriving there sometime in the afternoon.

We will return to the Coast on Sunday.

We welcome everyone who would like to attend our annual meeting, take in the Seed Orchard tour, or attend our dinner and listen to our guest speaker. Hopefully, you will renew old friendships, make some new friends and gain an insight into the early history of the forest industry in the North Okanagan.

For more details contact Stan Chester at stanchester@shaw.ca or (604)921-9880).



MAY 2011 MEMORIAMS

John Robert (Jack) Long

In Newsletter 90, Stan Chester contributed an article on the planting of 1 billion trees by the Brinkman Group. Many of those seedlings were likely sowed through the efforts of nurseryman John Robert (Jack) Long, who sadly passed away in May. Below is an excerpt from his obituary published in the *Victoria Times Colonist* newspaper:

LONG, John Robert (Jack) Born 13 August 1912 in Vancouver, B.C. A former resident of Palling, Campbell River, Duncan, Mill Bay and Sidney, Jack passed away in Saanich Peninsula Hospital, May 11, 2011. Predeceased by his wife, Margaret, and a large family of siblings & friends, he is survived by his daughter, Odean, his brother Ray, and nieces and nephews. He also left behind a wonderful bequest for us all: in Jack's very long career, first as a nurseryman and finally as Superintendent of Nurseries, with the B.C. Forest Service, he sowed over a half billion seedlings that thrive today in many of the forests of British Columbia.

(<http://www.legacy.com/can-victoria/obituaries.asp?Page=Lifestory&PersonId=150998960>)

An autobiography (<http://www.bcfs100.ca/docs/pdf/9/379.pdf>) of Jack's life and work is available on the BC Forest Service's Centenary website (http://www.bcfs100.ca/bscripts/people-expanded-view.asp?item_id=79&search_page=1&search_filter_char=all&search_keyword=Search+by+Last+Name). If anyone has other memories of Jack's nursery work and would like to share them with the rest of the members, please feel free to contribute your stories. The FHABC would be happy to include your reminiscences in subsequent newsletters.

Lorne F. Swannell RPF (RET.) #6

Many thanks to both Bruce Devitt RPF (RET.) and Eric Robinson RPF (RET.) who on June 23, 2011 contributed the following tribute to Lorne Swannell.

Lorne was born in Victoria BC September 02, 1908 to Frank and Ada Mary Swannell. He died in

Victoria May 18, 2011 in his 103rd year.¹

Lorne's father, Frank C. Swannell, who died in 1969, was a pioneer land surveyor and photographer whose photographs became a priceless historical record for the province. Lorne, like his father, made a significant contribution. His contribution to sustainable forestry management was recognized in 2001 by getting the "Tree of Life Award" from the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

Further, the province honoured and thanked him for his dedication and service, on his 100th birthday by creating a \$1500 Bursary in his name for Forestry & Forest Ecology Management to the University of Northern BC Faculty of Forestry.

He was an alumnus of Victoria College and UBC. He graduated from UBC with a BA in 1930 and a BA.Sc (forest engineering) with honours in 1931. He began his forestry career with the Forest Branch of the Department of Lands. He worked on survey crews, then as a ranger and then assigned in 1936 as a junior forester in the Kamloops Forest District. In 1939 he became Assistant District Forester in the Prince George Forest District.

WWII intervened between 1939 and 1945. Lorne enlisted in the survey regiment of the Canadian Artillery and was in England in 1940 and then France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He was discharged at the end of the war with the rank of Major, Battery Commander of the 2nd Survey Regiment, Royal Canadian Army.

Returning home he resumed his position in Prince George as Assistant District Forester becoming District Forester there in 1947. Lorne and Grace Alexander Wisenden married in Prince George in 1949.

Lorne and Grace moved to Kamloops in April 1952 where Lorne continued as District Forester. They left Kamloops for Victoria in 1958 when Lorne became Assistant Chief Forester. In 1965 he was appointed provincial Chief Forester a position he retired from in 1972.

After a life that spanned over 100 years, it is not possible to cover his entire working career with the BC Forest Service and all of his and Grace's interests and actions during his retirement. But a few words are needed to round out his story.

Lorne was an avid reader with a good memory. He asked tough questions but if you had the answer he let you be.

Gerry Andrews as head of a 1930 survey of the Flat Head reported that a crew member Lorne Swannell relished the "tough Assignments, apparently a family characteristic."²

Red Wassick, a legendary Nelson Assistant Ranger, said "Lorne liked getting out in the field and did

¹ Victoria Times Colonist Obituary: <http://www.legacy.com/can-victoria/Obituaries.asp?page=lifestory&personid=151740502> .

² *BC Historical News*. 8.2 (February 1975). (from the UBC Library).

not like being stuck in an office.”³ George Benwell⁴ describes a story of Lorne’s visit to the Lardeau Ranger District. A fire caused by a tree falling across a BC Hydro power line occurred. Lorne and, the then Nelson District Forester, Ralph Johnston offered to help even though in their dress uniforms. After the fire was contained their uniforms were in tatters and blackened with soot. Later in Victoria, Lorne, as Chief Forester, was able to support Benwell by assuring high-level BC Hydro people that his ranger was right. They were indeed responsible for the cost of putting out the fire.

Eric Robinson, a retired District Forester, who first met Lorne at Prince George in 1947, remembers him as a “military man, very disciplined but underneath very kind, considerate, honest and sincere and typical forest service family oriented. ... (And) he had a sense of humour”. Pam Head, Lorne’s Secretary, said her “fondest memory ... are the mornings when you heard him coming down the corridors of power whistling an alert for the BCFS staff.” Pam also noted that “it was too bad he and Grace had no children but they were very happy for their 55 years together”. Eric also said “Lorne was very generous to charities (and scholarships), loved the opera and such things and exercised religiously even at age 102. He enjoyed his scotch and visits from his friends.”

Grace and Lorne were 55 year life-companions with a joint passion for music. When Grace died December 18, 2004 Lorne made a perpetual bursary in her memory to the Uvic undergraduate piano students.

Lorne’s life was one of service; he now rests in peace with our gratitude.



VLADIMIR J. KRAJINA: A “FORESTER” WITH SOUL

by Barbara J. Coupé

[Editor’s Note: The third tribute in this newsletter is based on the research I have been conducting for my Master’s thesis on the ecologists of the BC Forest Service’s BEC program. Although Dr. Vladimir Josef Krajina (1905-1993) has been gone for 18 years, his influence is still being felt in BC forestry. What follows is a personal musing on the legacies of this world-renowned botanist/ecologist. As the developer of the biogeoclimatic concept, Dr. Krajina is front and centre in my thesis. His story is legendary in scope. As the following essay shows, his life not only affected forestry, but also touched people in unexpected ways. Please forgive the inclusion of the references—the academic in me insisted that I include them!]

Nazis, communists, and forest ecology—this tale of ecological classification in British Columbia involves desperation, intrigue, and landscape. The story stretches back to the tumult of the 1940s, builds with the environmental fervour of the 1970s, and chronicles the evolution of field ecology in the province.

³ Gayton, Don, and Dawn Wrangler. *A Proud Tradition: History of the Nelson Forest Region, 1897-2003*. Nelson, BC: BC Ministry of Forests, March 2003. Web.

“Gifts that Make the Grade A+.” *The Ring—The University of Victoria’s Community Newspaper* 31.4 (April 2005). Web. ABCFP “Forest Professional Centenarian.” *BC Forest Professional* 15.6 (Nov-Dec 2008): 24. Web.

Bell, Pat. “Introductions by Members.” *Hansard*. BC Legislature: 38th Parl., 4th sess., Vol. 36 No. 4. 27 Nov. 2008. Web.

⁴ Benwell, George. “High-Ranking Fire Crew.” www.bcfs100.ca. BC Forest Service Centenary Society, 2010. Web.

Honour, dedication, and commitment are all characters in this drama. But first, I shall open the narrative with bark beetles.

East of Wells, a town nestled in the foothills of the Cariboo Mountains, spreads an extensive wetland—the rusty meanderings of the Willow River as it meets Williams Creek. In 2006, this “rust” had spread to the hills overlooking the town. The mountain pine beetle, with its voracious enthusiasm for the inner bark of lodgepole pine, had painted much of BC an arboreal shade of red—destined to fade into twisted limbs of charcoal grey.

In August of that year, I was sitting at the edge of this wetland and looking up at those hills. A poem insisted on speaking, and I had no choice but to listen. There were “ladies dancing” in the contorted snags left over from the beetle’s scourge and the sound of “chains and change” in the wind. Once imprinted on my page—and my psyche—my poem ran on the CBC Radio series, *Beetlemania*. To my astonishment, I was soon staring down the biggest microphone I had ever seen and answering the question, “Why did you study forestry?” My answer was one of emotion and epiphanies, not the dry logic of a science-based profession. “Because of the strong spiritual impact of standing in an old-growth cedar-hemlock stand,” I responded. Two months later when the segment aired, the host of CBC’s *Alamanc* sardonically called me a “forester with soul,” seemingly surprised that a forester could possess such depth. Listening to the broadcast, my colleagues at the BC Forest Service concurred. Their laughter echoed throughout the office.

But the unexpected warmth of that imagery followed me home that night. Later I realized that the true claimants of “forestry soul” were none other than the ecologists of the BC Forest Service. For over thirty years, these men and women of the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification Program (BEC) had been closely “reading” the landscapes of BC, devotedly transcribing and translating ecosystems into a common language for all to understand. Herein was a story of legacy—of commitment to the land, spirit of place, and ecological consciousness and conscience. Two years later this story and I were wandering among the river rocks and wood beams at UNBC; the trajectory of a thesis had been born.

This synopsis of how I came to do a Master’s degree is only the outer layer of a much more complicated story—that of BEC itself and its people. I am one of those people, not just an objective observer scribbling down someone else’s once-upon-a-time details. For thirty-four years, from my work in the early years of the program to the three decades that I was married to one of its original ecologists, BEC has fed and nurtured me. But as for the ultimate reason why I am writing these words today—well, I have Hitler, the communists, and one scrappy Czechoslovakian botanist to thank.

In 1942, while my mother and father were tucked into the terrain of BC, safely dreaming their teenaged dreams, an accomplished botanist half a world away was running for his life. Vladimir Krajina had no choice. After the Nazis had rumbled into Prague in 1939 and executed student protesters,⁵ this thirty-four-year-old professor put aside his research to become an Allied spy and one of the leaders of the Czech resistance. He was no ordinary lens-toting botanist. Instead of closely observing stamens, petals, and leaf margins—and how, why, and where they grew on the landscape—Krajina began to concentrate on troop movements and military dispatches. As head of the “Secret Information Service,” he

⁵ Čermak, Josef. “Vladimir Josef Krajina.” www.svu2000.org. SVU: Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, n.d. Web. 10 July 2008.

coordinated the transmission of over 20,000 radio messages to the exiled Czechoslovakian government in London⁶ and organized an extensive network of allies and double agents—with serious repercussions for the Nazi war effort.

The Nazis did not take such interference lightly; coercion, oppression, and genocide were their favoured modes of retribution.⁷ Yet against—and despite—this backdrop of fear, violence, and intrigue, Krajina continued his clandestine activities, avoiding capture twelve times⁸ and finding shelter wherever he could in the border cottages and rock-caves northeast of Prague⁹—“never sleeping in the same place twice.”¹⁰ Then at the end of January in 1943 came betrayal. Finally captured by the Gestapo, Krajina went for one more escape: potassium cyanide. But the Nazis refused to let suicide claim their long-sought-after prize and repeatedly pumped his stomach.¹¹ Here was a prisoner too valuable to lose. After surviving interrogation at the Gestapo headquarters in Prague, he was sent to a concentration camp,¹² where he languished for over two years under a death sentence that was cancelled only hours before being carried out.¹³ The war was ending and Krajina was seen as a potentially useful hostage in post-war negotiations.¹⁴

Once free, Krajina dedicated his energies to rebuilding his homeland, putting aside his love of botany for the fractious turmoil of Czechoslovakian politics. As Secretary-General of the Nationalist Socialist Party, the main opposition to the Communist government, he continued to fight. The communists trumped up a charge of treason, accusing Krajina of being a Nazi collaborator.¹⁵ Although he was resoundingly cleared of any complicity, his struggles—and those of his compatriots—escalated. Verbal threats became bombs which became sacked offices and ultimately, a coup d'état in February 1948.¹⁶ When the communists came looking for the members of the opposition,¹⁷ Krajina and his family fled through the southeast mountains into American-held Bavaria—climbing for hours and then skiing down a narrow forested corridor to reach safety.¹⁸ They were right to leave; some of Krajina's colleagues were shot as

⁶ Jenik, John “Vladimir Krajina.” *www.cesky-dialog.net*. Czech Dialogue, n.d. Web. 14 Feb. 2010.

⁷ After Reinhard Heydrich, the German put in charge of Czechoslovakia and one of the architects of the “Final Solution,” was assassinated by two Czech paratroopers in 1942, the village of Lidice was destroyed and its inhabitants slaughtered or sent to die in concentration camps. (Vaughan, David, Dita Asiedu, and Jan Velinger. “Heroes or Cowards: Czechs in World War II.” *www.radio.cz*. 5 July 2005. Web. 5 June 2011.)

⁸ Thom, Agnes. “Vladimir Krajina: The Spy Who Saved Our Forests.” *The Province* 7 Feb. 1982: n.pg. Print.

⁹ John Jenik. “Vladimir Krajina.” *www.cesky-dialog.net*. Czech Dialogue, n.d. Web. 14 Feb. 2010.

¹⁰ Silver, Arnold M. “Memories of Oberursel: Questions, Questions, Questions.” *Intelligence and National Security* 8.2 (April 1993): 81-90. Web. 6 June 2011. p. 89

¹¹ Price, Gord. “Vladimir Krajina.” *Forestalk* (Spring 1981): 30-32. Web. 13 July 2010. p. 30.

¹² Griffin, Kevin “Czech Remains Quiet Hero” *The Vancouver Sun* 8 Dec. 1989 4th ed.: A1 FRO. Proquest. Web. 7 June 2011.

¹³ Čermak, Josef. “Vladimir Josef Krajina.” *www.svu2000.org*. SVU: Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, n.d. Web. 10 July 2008.

¹⁴ Čermak, Josef. “Vladimir Josef Krajina.” *www.svu2000.org*. SVU: Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, n.d. Web. 10 July 2008.

¹⁵ Frommer, Benjamin. *National Cleansing: Retribution against Nazi Collaborators in Postwar Czechoslovakia* Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 6 Dec. 2004. Web. 13 July 2010. p. 126

¹⁶ Čermak, Josef. “Vladimir Josef Krajina.” *www.svu2000.org*. SVU: Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, n.d. Web. 10 July 2008.

¹⁷ “On March 1, 1948, Time Magazine reported that ‘armed police raided the sacked headquarters of the Nationalist Socialist Party, seeking the party’s secretary general’.” In Moore, Tom. “Obituaries: Vladimir J. Krajina.” *The Forestry Chronicle*, 69.4. (August 1993): 487. Web. 8 May 2008.

¹⁸ , Agnes. “Vladimir Krajina: The Spy Who Saved Our Forests.” *The Province* 7 Feb. 1982: n.pg. Print.

traitors.¹⁹ Frustrated, the Communist regime sentenced him in absentia to twenty-five years for treason²⁰ and expunged his name from “every text and scientific record.”²¹ Democracy would not return to Czechoslovakia until the winter of 1989. Neither would Krajina. Only in 1990 was he finally vindicated. In recognition of his political and academic accomplishments and contributions—both at home and abroad—the government awarded him Czechoslovakia’s highest honour: the Order of the White Lion.²² His adopted country, Canada, had beaten the Czechs by nine years, investing him as a Member of the Order of Canada in 1981.²³

But back in 1948, Krajina and his family were just one more group of refugees fleeing the wounds of central Europe. After stopping first in Britain to shake Winston Churchill’s hand and receive the Prime Minister’s personal thanks,²⁴ the Krajinas then journeyed to British Columbia where a teaching position at the University of BC awaited. To his new home, Krajina brought his fighting spirit and political acumen. But he also brought his passion for complex natural systems. Tucked away in his suitcase was a holistic approach to ecosystems that would revolutionize BC’s forest management practices over the next six decades—the biogeoclimatic concept.

With his resistance days seemingly behind him, Krajina, wasted no time in unpacking his biogeoclimatic philosophy. BC seemed to be made for just such an approach. The province’s natural diversity was far beyond his expectations. For a botanist who had identified his first new plant species in his early twenties, the province’s ecosystems—largely unstudied in any ecological manner—must have seemed like a banquet. He was also concerned about the increasing disappearance of rare and endangered ecosystems. His adroit ability to lobby politicians, his rapport with the media (and thus with the public), and his skill in galvanizing fellow professionals led to the passage of the 1971 Ecological Reserves Act,²⁵ predating the provincial Protected Area Strategy by twenty-two years. As of 2005, there were 147 ecological reserves protecting and preserving ecosystems throughout BC.²⁶ In Krajina’s words: “We need to have these reserves to provide evidence as to how nature operated, how it operates, and how it will operate when left undisturbed and unmolested.”²⁷

When Krajina arrived in BC, the rudimentary condition of sustainable forestry left him aghast. Although the “unregulated exploitation stage” of forestry had given way to legal endorsements of professional forestry and sustained yield,^{28, 29} problems developed. When the forest industry ramped up in the 1950s

¹⁹ “Some of [Krajina’s] close allies (most notably Dr. Milada Horakova) were executed.” In: Moore, Tom. “Obituaries: Vladimir J. Krajina.” *The Forestry Chronicle*, 69.4. (August 1993): 487. Web. 8 May 2008.

²⁰ Wali, Mohan K. “Vladimir Joseph Krajina (1905-1993): A Tribute.” *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America*, 75.4 (Dec. 1994): 194-195.

²¹ Price, Gord. “Vladimir Krajina.” *Forestalk* (Spring 1981): 30-32. Web. 13 July 2010. p. 31.

²² Čermak, Josef

²³ Governor General of Canada; Honours: Order of Canada; [www.gg.ca Archives; 2009-04-30; June 7 2011; <http://archive.gg.ca/honours/search-recherche/honours-desc.asp?lang=e&TypeID=orc&id=909>.](http://www.gg.ca/Archives/2009-04-30/June%207%202011/http://archive.gg.ca/honours/search-recherche/honours-desc.asp?lang=e&TypeID=orc&id=909)

²⁴ Jenik, Jan. “Professor Vladimír J. Krajina—Honorary Member of the Czechoslovakian Botanical Society.” *Preslia*. 64: (1992) 291-311 Print; pg.293

²⁵ Price, Gord. “Vladimir Krajina.” *Forestalk* (Spring 1981): 30-32. Web. 13 July 2010. p. 31.

²⁶ *State of British Columbia’s Ecological Reserves: Report for 2005* p. 2.

²⁷ Price, Gord. “Vladimir Krajina.” *Forestalk* (Spring 1981): 30-32. Web. 13 July 2010. p. 31.

²⁸ Bruce Devitt and James Pratt. *Forest Practice, Policy and the Profession: In Celebration of the Association of BC Professional Foresters’ Fiftieth Anniversary*. 1997 Vancouver, BC: Association of BC Professional Foresters. p. 11.

and 1960s, technological changes and expanded markets for so-called “undesirable” species (such as lodgepole pine) meant that harvesting expanded across the land base.³⁰ Sites were often degraded by harvesting and/or slashburning. In addition, the planting of site-inappropriate species was leading to regeneration failures. Knowledge of how ecosystems function was minimal at best, and sustainability suffered from this lack of understanding. With the same bulldog attitude he showed the Nazis and the communists, Krajina wasted no time in voicing his criticisms and concerns. This blunt “Churchill of the forest ecology world” was not shy. He told industry foresters that if they were to apply the same forest management practices in Europe as they did in BC, they would be thrown in jail.³¹ Although he no longer taught dendrology to forestry students after being transferred permanently to the Botany Department in the early 1960’s, his influence remained. Through his graduate students and his teachings in ecology and botany, he continued to impact the young minds of forestry—minds that were soon to be bathed in the environmentalism of the mid-1960s.

Krajina was fifty-seven when Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* touched off the modern environmental era in 1962. By that time, he had supervised twelve graduate students whose projects ranged from ecological classifications to examinations of slashburning, tree growth, and nutrient cycling.³² He would supervise twenty-one more students before he was done. In the 1960s and 1970s, his students were graduating into a world where ecology and the environment were exploding into the public consciousness and infiltrating political campaign strategies. Many of BC’s environmental groups were formed in this era and helped focus the public’s attention on environmental issues.

Local incidents of environmental degradation further intensified concern. Increasingly the public demanded answers, action, and reassurance. Watershed logging issues around Ucluelet and Sechelt became politicized. Fishermen demanded protection for fragile salmon spawning grounds. And as one retired BEC ecologist states, “The ladies [in Sechelt] ... were getting sand in their sinks!”³³ Thus in 1974 some of BC’s first integrated watershed studies were initiated. The recommendations from these studies combined with the spectre of failing tree plantations convinced forestry managers that an ecologically-oriented classification was needed. The BC Ministry of Forests Research Branch did not have to look far. Krajina and his students had already studied much of the province through his biogeoclimatic lens. An added advantage was that many working foresters were former dendrology students of Krajina and had a passing familiarity with his work.

The decision was made. Krajina’s biogeoclimatic concept was to form the basis for a province-wide classification designed to integrate climate, topographic/site/soil features, and vegetation at different scales—regional, local, and chronological—across the landscape. His last two PhD students—Dick Annas and Karel Klinka—were hired to hone and polish Krajina’s ideas into a workable program. In 1975, EP 822—Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification—was born. Two years later, the program

²⁹ The Association of BC Professional Foresters (now called the Association of BC Forest Professionals) was founded in 1947 and sustained yield was introduced by the 1945 Sloan Commission (Bruce Devitt and James Pratt) p. 22.

³⁰ British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Research Branch. *Forest Science Program Annual Report 2001 – 2002: Science to Support Sustainability* Forest Science Program Annual Reports. 2002 [http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/forsci/anreport/](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/forsci/anreport/http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/forsci/anreport/2002/rprt2002.pdf)
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/forsci/anreport/2002/rprt2002.pdf>

³¹ Price, Gord. “Vladimir Krajina.” *Forestalk* (Spring 1981): 30-32. Web. 13 July 2010. p. 31.

³² Wali, Mohan K. “Reflections on the Life and Times of Vladimir Joseph Krajina.” *Canadian Journal of Botany*. 62 (1988): 2605-2619. Print. p. 2606

³³ Baker, T. Personal Interview. 23 July 2009.

spread across the province, and I became one of many summer students classifying ecosystems. There I was, wandering through the Cariboo, digging soil pits while keeping one eye on the shrub, herb, and moss layers and the other searching the canopy for tree heights.

BEC's original lifespan was slated to be five years. But the program far exceeded expectations. Thirty-six years and over 47,000 plots of ecosystem data later, BEC is still running. The classification is now integral to forest management and fundamental to forest certification schemes, underwriting everything from tree seed selection and regeneration standards to the setting of harvest date and land use planning. The names of its zones, subzones, variants, and site series have become clichés in the lexicon of forest practitioners and have even filtered through to newspaper articles and real estate ads. Navigate through BEC's website³⁴ and you will be able to download colour-coded distribution maps—interpretations of nature's palette vivid enough to rival any modern art. Yet the general public is largely unaware of this program or that BC is one of the few jurisdictions with a truly ecological classification of its natural landscape. The province has an archive of place unparalleled in the world—a record of natural ecosystems as they existed in the late 20th century and the early 21st. Legacy data indeed!

During BEC's tenure, the ecologists have roamed over every region of this province. They have scrambled through biting thickets of Devil's Club, strolled across tick-infested grasslands, waded through sphagnum swamps, and gloried in the full bloom of alpine meadows. Along the way, they have inhaled hordes of mosquitoes, stared down bears, and been circled by wolves. Helicopter flights, boat rides, and endless miles in pickup trucks got them part way to their destinations. Their passion, enthusiasm, and spirit of place took them the rest of the way. Many ecologists have been with the program since its inception and even in retirement, continue to explore and study their regions. In doing so, they follow the path laid out by Vladimir Krajina.

His influence has been profound—at international and national levels, in the halls of academia, and in the moss, mists, and deserts of BC's ecosystems. His abiding citizenship, stalwart ethics, and dedication to duty not only affected the outcome of a war, they also inspired generations to think more ecologically—and British Columbia is the richer for it. Personally, I too am richer. He changed my life. Not directly, but through his PhD student, Dick Annas, who in the spring of 1974 led a group of first-year biology students to study forest ecology on Vancouver Island. As we clustered around Dick in a grove of ancient cedar and hemlock, he stood quiet and still, breathing the old-growth air of moss and mist. Then he began to speak. He told us of energy pathways and nutrient cycling—root to shoot and back again. He described the interactions of flora and fauna, both above ground and below. The water cycle condensed on our cheeks as he pointed out the physical lay of the land—its gentle slope, northern aspect, and medium-textured soils. The fallen giant he was leaning against became a nursery for hemlock seedlings, and the crooks of the large cedar branches overhead became home-base for entire worlds. An epiphany is a door flung wide open, and as Dick spoke, he unlocked that door for me. He peeled away my confusion and enabled me to hear, see, and touch the ecosystems waiting on the other side. In that moment, a botany career gave way to one in forest ecology.

³⁴ http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hre/becweb/resources/maps/map_download.html

People are like pebbles tossed into a pond. Their ripples flow outward and affect others in unexpected ways. What people do and how they act can reverberate through time. Thirty-seven years after that epiphany, I sit here, trying to say thank you to Krajina the best way I can—by writing about the legacies he left behind. Eighteen years after his death, his influence endures. Through his biogeoclimatic concept, we have a method of making ecosystems understandable for a wide range of users. BEC enables us to hear ecosystem “voice.” Whether or not we choose to listen is another matter.

But this one man influenced more than our understanding of ecosystems. Words such as citizenship, duty, ethics, commitment, and courage are easy to write down, but difficult to practice. Performed with honour, their wave-fronts can last for years. Back in 1943, Krajina could not have foreseen that his unsuccessful suicide attempt would eventually affect the largest industry of a province half a world away. Had he died, he would not have inspired many of his fellow Czech citizens to keep on fighting or charged countless foresters to look more closely at the natural world. As for me, his absence would have altered my very life; my career and subsequent marriage would never have happened. And all those years ago, because some obscure Nazi commander gave the order to pump his prisoner’s stomach, two fine young men—my sons Ross and Paul—exist today. For me, that is the heart of this story.

[Do you have a story about Dr. Krajina—or about ecological classification or environmental history? If so, please share. I would love to include them in the newsletter. NOTE: Just before his death, Krajina published a Czechoslovakian memoir of his war-time experiences, and recently a Czech documentary on his life was produced. For those of us who cannot speak Czechoslovakian, watch for Krajina’s biography shortly to be published by Czech-Canadian author Jan Drabek.]



MORE POETRY IN THE WOODS

After Issue 90’s focus on poetry, it seems appropriate to include the poem mentioned in the above story. Be forewarned—I relished playing with our forestry jargon while writing the poem and was especially “cheeky” with *Pinus contortus* in the last stanza! Last fall, “The Ladies Dance” was included in an anthology entitled *Unfurled: Collected Poetry from Northern BC Women*. (p. 55).

The Ladies Dance

by Barb Coupé

I am helium, stringless
in this arboreal atmosphere of rust
where the Ladies
flushed with auburn tresses
sway to a Beetle’s tune

they sport spiked coronets of needles
twisted and transformed
into the fire-breathing chlorophyll of doomed beasts

a finality of crowns and canopy
sweeps and snags the sky

ah, the flying, falling melody of rice
wedded bliss of *Dendroctonus* and *Ophiostoma*
the Insect/Fungi Jug-band
playing the pitch pipes
and singing the Blues
the dying air stained
with the sharp scent of resin
and the saw-edged resonance
of chains and change

Economic calamity!
Ecological disaster!
Extinction of species!

beat the drums of the band leader
while the Beetles bore
engorge on phloem pâté
and ignore the Pileateds
who feast on leftovers

undeterred, the Ladies dance
they spiral across this unmended landscape
in a vast promenade of pomegranate shades
a Red-Tide surging ever eastwards
on prehensile sound waves
that surf our milder, modern climes

but this I know

the music will mute
the dance will disperse
and the Ladies will languish
into faded crones who claw and scratch
limbs into the overstory

their silhouettes will stand
bent and stiff
sentinels to their own succession

contorted
they pine in silence
as nature begins a different tune...

The previous issue also inspired retired forester, Brian Voth, to connect with his poetic muse. The FHABC is delighted to showcase his poem, “Second Growth.” Thanks so much Brian for your contribution—“pushing and scrambling through dense and tangled growth” is something we can all relate to!

Second Growth

by Brian Voth

Twenty years
since the loggers were here,
the ancient stems
laid flat, and hauled away.

But now,
in a relentless and mindless race,
the young hemlock
are slowly jostling for space.

A breathless day,
silent and gray,
the snow floats down,
and softly builds.

For hours,
I push and scramble
through dense and tangled growth;
the snow,
perched on every twig,
darts and swirls as I move.

Arms and legs
part the way,
my breath comes hard,
and fogs the air.

I break through
to an abandoned road,
a brief respite
from my snowy swim,
my racing heart calms down.

Surrounded by stillness,
and a vastness
of cold unfeeling earth,
I feel my smallness,
and I feel my warmth.



BOOKS, LINKS, and SUCH

1. An article in the *Cowichan Valley Citizen*; "Tribute to Forest Industry Revealed" by Lexi Baines; published May 25, 2011:

"Forest workers and Cowichan Lake residents with long memories watched excitedly Saturday as highlights from a fascinating collection of logging and sawmilling photographs were shown during the community's annual Heritage Days."

For the entire article please see:

<http://www2.canada.com/cowichanvalleycitizen/story.html?id=14569374-aaf4-422b-87a5-c5c2f97f0bfe>.

2. An article in the Revelstoke Times Review; "Visit the BC Interior Forestry Museum" by Aaron Orlando; published July 7, 2011:

The article discusses the transformation of the 10-year-old museum and its adaptation to the loss of gaming funding. Current exhibits and planned events are also highlighted. The article can be accessed at

http://www.bcclocalnews.com/kootenay_rockies/revelstoketimesreview/entertainment/125185528.html.

3. Update: Canadian Forest History Preservation Project (submitted by David Brownstein)

In October 2010, the Canadian Forest Service, the Forest History Society, and NiCHE (The Network for Canadian History and Environment), collaborated to form the Canadian Forest History Preservation Project. Our project's mandate is to ensure the survival of Canada's forest history, by identifying, locating, and safeguarding primary sources in danger of being lost or destroyed. We seek to achieve this goal by facilitating the gift of written, visual, or sound records, from private individuals, organizations, or businesses, to the appropriate archival repositories.

Progress so far:

A bilingual survey text, designed to establish the capacity and willingness of archives to receive new donations, is now ready. This survey has already been distributed to institutions in Alberta, and will soon be shared with those in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec. Later, it will be distributed in other provinces without local Forest History organizations.

4. Books/article titles gleaned from the journal, *Environmental History* (while many of these titles pertain to areas outside of BC, they still may be of interest—plus check out the list of Forest History Society Books at <http://www.foresthistory.org/publications/books.html>):

- Robbins, William G., and Katrine Barber. *Nature's Northwest: The North Pacific Slope in the Twentieth Century*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2011. xxi + 286 pp

- Stevenson, Susan K. et al. *British Columbia's Inland Rainforest: Ecology, Conservation, and Management*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011. xxi + 432 pp. |
- *The Lumberman's Frontier: Three Centuries of Land Use, Society, and Change in America's Forests*. By Thomas R. Cox. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 2010. xi + 531 pp.
- Dietrich, William. *The Final Forest: Big Trees, Forks, and the Pacific Northwest*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2010. 2nd ed. 336 pp.
- Crosman, Kathleen. "The Army in the Woods: Spruce Production Division Records at the National Archives." *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 112 (Spring 2011): 100–6.
- Preece, Kathleen. "70 Years of Stewardship: Tree Farm Celebrates a Growing Legacy." *Tree Farmer* 30 (January/February 2011): 6–17.
- Campbell, Claire Elizabeth, ed. *A Century of Parks Canada, 1911–2011*. Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2011. ix + 447 pp.
- Mackovjak, James. *Tongass Timber: A History of Logging and Timber Utilization in Southeast Alaska*. Durham: Forest History Society, 2010. xiv + 386 pp.
- Packham, John R., and Colin Faulkner. "Douglas Fir *Pseudotsuga Menziesii* in the American North-West and the Role of Railways in its Early Logging." *Arboricultural Journal* 33 (September 2010): 107–123.
- McCleery, Douglas W. *American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery*. 2011 (Rev. ed.) Forest History Society.



RENEWAL NOTES

Note that cheques must be made out to the holder of that bank account, i.e. **The Forest History Association of B.C.** NOT the FHABC, Forest History Association, etc.

Regular mail subscribers: your membership expiry date is on the address label. If this date is incorrect, let us know. And if you want to help reduce the Association's postal bill, please make sure we have your email address. Thank you.



REQUESTS

The FHABC is always looking for volunteers and new executive members. So if you are interested in participating in promoting and celebrating BC's forest history, please give us a shout. We would love to hear from you. And don't forget to check out the BC Forest Service Centenary website: www.bcfs100.ca.

STORIES, STORIES, STORIES: The Newsletter needs your reminiscences/anecdotes. Whether they are prose or poetry, all contributions are welcome. The newsletter is **ALWAYS** thirsty for more forestry-related tales. Everybody loves a good story; everybody has a story to tell. And forestry has great stories. Most importantly, **these stories can be as varied as the profession itself**. Don't worry about your writing skills—I will help you.

Plus, please send me any suggestions you may have about the newsletter or about the FHABC in general.



This newsletter is the official publication of the Forest History Association of British Columbia. Please submit newsletter material and send changes of address to the Editor: Barbara Coupé, 1067 Heritage Crescent, Prince George B.C. V2M 6X2; Phone: (250) 562-1051; E-mail: bjcoupe@telus.net.

Membership is \$15 yearly or \$40 for three years. Please send dues to the Treasurer: Art Walker, 564 Oliver Street, Victoria B.C. V8S 4W3; Phone: (250) 598-4455; E-mail: aws564@telus.net. **NOTE**: Cheques **must** be made out to **The Forest History Association of B.C.** NOT the FHABC, Forest History Association, etc.

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Back issues (courtesy of the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources [MFLN] library): http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/Library/lib_Forest_History_Newsletter.htm. (Issues 40-84 are available at the MFLN Library website; #21-84 on the FHABC website, <http://fhabc.org/>).