

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 20, 2015

ABCFP Presents Top Honours

The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) presented awards to two individuals who have made significant contributions to the profession and study of forestry.

“These top honours go to two extremely deserving post-secondary instructors,” says Dan Graham, RPF, LLB, president of the ABCFP. “Both individuals have not only made significant contributions to forestry knowledge themselves, they have also spent many hours teaching the next generation of forest professionals.”

The ABCFP’s top award for non-members is Honourary Membership. This award, which is not presented every year, is reserved for someone who has made outstanding contributions to forestry. This year, the ABCFP is pleased to award Dr. Ken Lertzman from the School of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University, with Honourary Membership.

“Ken’s research on natural disturbance dynamics and the structure and composition of old forests has substantially improved our understanding of the ecology of forests and landscapes in British Columbia, Canada and internationally,” says Dan.

In addition, many forest practitioners have benefited from Ken’s desire to create practical solutions to forest management challenges. One of Ken’s nominators said that he has put a great deal of work into understanding how global climate change affects our ecosystems and describes him as “an innovative and critical thinker who has applied scientific inquiry to forest management and conservation.”

At his heart, Ken is an educator. He was one of the founders of the Haida Gwaii Semester program and continues to help the program grow and improve. This program brings about 40 students a year to Haida Gwaii for a full semester where they learn about forest resource management via UBC Faculty of Forestry classes while living in a small, forest-dependent community. Ken brought the first students to the program when it was in the pilot stage and he continues to travel to Haida Gwaii to teach part of a course every year.

The second award presented by the ABCFP is the Distinguished Forest Professional Award. This award, which is not presented every year, is the ABCFP’s top award for a member. It is presented to an individual who has contributed a lifetime of work to the betterment of forestry in BC. Dr. Steve Mitchell, RPF, of UBC’s Faculty of Forestry is this year’s recipient of the Distinguished Forest Professional Award.

Steve is known around the world for his research into understanding and managing windthrow (wind damage in a forest that can occur naturally and can be made worse by a number of factors such as wet soil, recent fires or human activity). He is the coordinator of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations’ Wind and Trees section.

“Steve doesn’t believe in keeping his research findings within the walls of academia,” says Dan. “In fact, Steve is known for finding ways to share his research with practitioners. He has been advocating for the practical application of forestry research for the past 20 years.”

Steve was able to make a positive contribution to the urban forest sector when he wrote the prescriptions to make the remaining trees in Vancouver’s Stanley Park more resistant to wind after a devastating storm in 2006.

The ABCFP is very pleased to be able to present Ken and Steve with these prestigious awards. We offer our congratulations to both of them.

-30-

*The **Association of BC Forest Professionals**’ forestry conference and AGM, is held in different locations around BC each year. Attending are Registered Professional Foresters and Registered Forest Technologists who come to learn from the best, share ideas and best practices, and network with colleagues.*

*The **Association of BC Forest Professionals** is responsible for registering and regulating British Columbia’s professional foresters and forest technologists. Today, it is the largest professional forestry association in Canada and the first to include forest technologists. Here in BC, the practice of professional forestry has been regulated since 1947 when foresters first agreed to help protect the public’s interest in the province’s forests in return for the exclusive right to practise forestry.*

For more information: www.abcfp.ca

Amanda Brittain, Director of Communications

Cell: 778.233.1169 | Direct: 604.331.2321 | E-mail: abrittain@abcfp.ca