

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 13, 2014

BC's Newest Forest Professionals Welcomed

(Kelowna, BC) The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABC FP) welcomed 85 new members into the association during a special recognition ceremony today at its conference and AGM. Among the new inductees, two individuals were recognized for having scored at the top of their classes in the required registration exam.

Neil Alexander MacEachern, Registered Professional Forester (RPF), of Gibsons, scored the highest mark for the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) exam.

Neil grew up in the forest outside of Thunder Bay, Ontario, before moving into town in later childhood. For this reason, he's always felt more comfortable in the woods than out of them.

Neil enrolled in biology at the University of Ottawa but took up tree planting in the summers to pay his tuition. This eventually led him to BC where the pay was better. In 2005 he made the leap, moved out west, registered in Forest Resources Management at UBC, and hasn't looked back.

Neil has had a wide exposure to forestry through fighting wild fires, silviculture, fuel management, timber cruising, forest pathology and beetle management. He also earned a Master's specializing in forest carbon in the UK. Outside of work he likes to spend time with his two young sons and mountain biking.

Ana Maria Gonzalez, Trainee Forest Technologist (TFT), of Chilliwack, scored the highest mark for the Registered Forest Technologist (RFT) exam. Once Ana Maria completes her articling, she will be able to use the RFT designation.

Ana Maria grew up in Colombia, South America. Her childhood memories include walking in coffee plantations during harvest season and running away from wild bulls. Before coming to Canada in 2000, she was pursuing a degree in Environmental Engineering while she was working in the financing sector. Her community involvement included tree planting in recreational sites and parks, designing educational activities for school children with emphasis in environmental issues and sustainability, and community awareness.

After her arrival in Canada, she became a volunteer for the City of Abbotsford with the Environmental Department and currently is a member of the Arbour Day committee. She worked for United Way of the Fraser Valley but took time off from work to raise her family. In 2009, she enrolled in the Sustainable Resource Management program with emphasis in Forest Management at BCIT. After her graduation, she got a job with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. For the last two years, she has been involved with incremental silviculture projects such as Juvenile Spacing and Pruning, Fire Rehabilitation and Forest and Range Evaluation assessments. She is currently working as Senior Resource Technologist for the Engineering Department in the Chilliwack Forest District.

Ana Maria enjoys spending her free time with her three children going camping and exploring the beautiful outdoors of British Columbia.

ABC FP members must fulfill post-secondary education requirements, complete a two-year articling period and pass a registration exam before being allowed to practise forestry independently.

The ABCFP 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.

New ABCFP Members

100 Mile House Ms. Krista Leigh Blades, TFT* Mr. Colin Trevor Campbell, RFT Mr. Andrew John Vander Putten, FIT* Mr. Ben David Vinje, RPF	Mackenzie Mr. Paul Eli Rendall, TFT* Mr. Mark Robert Balogh, RPF
150 Mile House Mr. Kyle James Miller, TFT*	Nanaimo Mr. Benjamin Lee Racher, RFT
Campbell River Mr. Samuel William Bonner, RFT Mr. Christopher Hal Boulton, FIT* Mr. Colin Brian Filliter, RPF Mr. Adam David Hockin, RPF Ms. Kristin Anne Storry, RPF Ms. Jocelin Nellie Teron, RPF	Nelson Mr. Michael John Drinkwater, RPF, ATC Mr. Eric Michael Wahn, FIT*
Chetwynd Mr. Glen Alan Frank, RPF	North Bay, Ontario Mr. Steve Mitchell Bros, RPF
Chilliwack Ms. Ana Maria Gonzalez, TFT* Mr. Owen Lee Smith, RPF	North Vancouver Mr. Andrew Martin Spence, RPF
Coldstream Mr. Jesse Kenichi Hodgins, RPF	Port Hardy Mr. Michael James White, RPF
Cranbrook Mr. Garry Wayne Armstrong, RFT Mr. Christoph Patric Eitzenberger, RPF Mr. Christopher John Lovesey, RPF	Port McNeill Ms. Nadia Davina Ramnarine, RFT Mr. Matthew Jason Tjepkema, RFT Mr. Robert Harding Van Buskirk, RPF Mr. Richard Jason Ward, RPF
Crofton Mr. Andrew Jacob Sawden, RPF	Powell River Mr. John Macdonald Forrest, RFT Mr. Friedrich George Von Westarp, RPF

Dawson Creek Ms. Natasha Nicole Kavli, RFT Mr. Rory Charles Stewart Plunkett, RPF	Prince George Mr. Brendan Michael Flanagan, TFT* Ms. Jayme Lynn Goldie, RFT Mr. Calvin Robert Strom, RFT Mr. Joseph Alfredo Aquino, FIT* Mr. Robert James Willows, RPF Mr. Gregory John DeMille, RPF
Edmonton, Alberta Mr. Marc Henry Mayhew, RPF	Quesnel Ms. Holly Jean Christie, TFT*
Fort Nelson Mr. Patrick Milton Sproule, RFT	Rossland Mr. Landon Daniel Levesque, RFT
Fort St. James Mr. Daniel Peter Braun, TFT* Mr. Brett Joseph Musa, TFT* Mr. Patrick G.J. Bussiere, RPF Mr. James Andrew Snetsinger, RPF	Smithers Mr. Jonathan Louis Dehouwer, FIT* Ms. Marie-Lou Lefrançois, RPF Ms. Shannon Alexandra Pearce, RPF
Fort St. John Ms. Athena Grace Andritz, RPF	Squamish Mr. Jake Alexander Hussey, TFT* Mr. Richard August Timm, TFT* Ms. Susan Lee, RPF
Fraser Lake Ms. Erin Frances Burdikin, RPF Ms. Jana Aileen Trappl, RPF	Standon, Quebec Mr. Felix Brochu Marier, RPF
Gibsons Mr. Neil Alexander MacEachern, RPF	Terrace Mr. Timothy Jarrett Moser, RPF Ms. Sarah Jane Railton, RPF Ms. Tara Daleigh Salmon, RPF
Grand Forks Mr. Jesse Grant Andrew Ingram, RFT	Vancouver Ms. Viviana Flores, TFT* Mr. Tristan Robert Jordan, RPF Mr. Rurik Wilhelm Muentner, RPF Mr. Daniel Clayton Nadir, RPF Mr. George Nicholas Reinhardt, RPF
Hagensborg Ms. Kerry Lee Phillips, RFT	Vanderhoof Mr. Blake Jean Forde, RPF Mr. David Brent Zurevinski, RPF
Holberg Mr. Brian Martin Scott, RPF	Vernon Ms. Megan Aimee Sheshurak, RFT Mr. Morgan James Boghean, TFT*
Houston Mr. Richard Joseph Smith, RPF Mr. Jonathan William Van Barneveld, FIT*	Victoria Mr. Ryan Biggs, RPF

Kamloops Ms. Kirsten Blythe Jorgensen, RFT Mr. Stefan Albrecher, FIT* Ms. Rhiannon Elise Poupard, RPF Mr. Brent Kayo Woitas, RPF	Williams Lake Ms. Monica Anne Larden, RPF
Kimberley Ms. Stacey Leigh Jacobs, RFT	
Langley Mr. Tyler Ward Schaap, RFT	