

The OFRI Seminar Series presents ...

Some Aspects of Ecological Research in Ontario Forests and Agroforests

April 30 at 3 p.m.

The OFRI lecture pit

Presenter: Andy Gordon

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University of Guelph

Over the years, the University of Guelph has worked with many partners to pursue a variety of research in forested environments. Many of these studies have embraced an ecosystem ecology approach to understanding the structure of and important ecological processes within natural and plantation forests.

For example, long-term experiments in tree-based intercropping and integrated riparian systems in southern Ontario have contributed to understanding the importance of litterfall, nutrient transfer, and carbon sequestration in these land-use systems. An early awareness of the important linkage between terrestrial and aquatic systems in the agricultural landscape of southern Ontario has been parlayed into research investigating the flow of energy and nutrients across this important ecotone in forests in both central Ontario and the boreal region, where large-scale timber harvesting practices may affect these processes.

Historical studies in boreal plantations have focused on successional pathways associated with the understory plant community, the distribution of soil microarthropods and litterfall, throughfall, and stemflow chemical fluxes for several species within the genus *Picea*. Current research is focused on the distribution of arboreal lichens and the occurrence of microbial communities within the phyllosphere in boreal plantations; agroforestry initiatives in Chile, Ghana and Egypt; and a feedstock-to-furnace look at bioenergy from short-rotation willow plantations.

Dr. Gordon will provide an overview of these studies while discussing the wide range of investigative scales necessary to thoroughly understand forest systems.

No reservations are required for this event. If you are coming from another location, plan to arrive at least five minutes before the seminar begins to sign in at the reception desk and obtain a visitor pass.

Most OFRI seminars are eligible for continuing education credits through the Canadian Institute of Forestry and the Ontario Professional Foresters Association.

For more information about this seminar or about OFRI, contact Abby Obenchain at OFRI (705-946-7422, abigail.obenchain@ontario.ca).

This presentation is sponsored by OFRI (Forest Research and Development Section, Applied Research and Development Branch, Science and Information Resources Division, MNR).

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