



The Woodland Observer

Enjoy Nature!

Nipissing Naturalists Club

January 2012

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Congratulations Fred Pinto!

Candidate for the United Nations International Year of Forests - Forest Heroes Award

*Canadian Institute of Forestry News
Release*

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The Canadian Institute of Forestry-Institut forestier du Canada (CIF/IFC) is pleased to announce that former Institute President Fred Pinto of North Bay, Ontario has made the shortlist for the United Nations International Year of Forests – Forest Heroes Award, one of only three individuals being considered for the prestigious North American category. The award recipient will be announced in January 2012 at a special UN ceremony in New York.

Mr. Pinto has been a voluntary member of the CIF/IFC, a national non-profit association of forest professionals for over 30 years, also serving on the National Board of Directors. In 2006 he began a four year term on the Institute's National Executive, with his presidential year coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the CIF/IFC in 2008. He is also the current Chair of the Board of Trustees of Forests without Borders. Mr. Pinto is employed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Southern Science and Information Section.

Nominated for the UN Forest Hero Award by a special committee of his fellow CIF/IFC members, Mr. Pinto is recognized as the visionary who led the initiative that created the charity - Forests without Borders, dedicated to helping communities throughout the world to restore forest ecosystems and achieve sustainability. Since its inception, Forests without Borders has steadily gained momentum,



with fund raising achieved through CIF/IFC membership activities and events. Several international aid projects relating to forest ecosystems are underway, including forest restoration projects in Zambia and Haiti.

Mr. Pinto also devotes a great deal of his time to teaching young forest professionals, helping them to develop a broad and balanced understanding of forestry. He has personally overseen University of Toronto annual forestry field camps based at the Canadian Ecology Centre near Mattawa for 15 years, ensuring a diverse and interesting time for Conservation graduate and undergraduate students. He initiated an electronic lecture series in 2007 that today runs almost once

every week. These lectures connect hundreds of forest practitioners from across Canada to leading experts. The lectures allow forest practitioners in small remote communities as well as larger communities to obtain the latest information and knowledge related to forests in a cost effective and environmentally sound manner.

Mr. Pinto is also an excellent and willing communicator, which is well demonstrated through his many years of work with the Nipissing Naturalists and Bird Studies Canada. As an avid naturalist and birder, he has taken great interest in species at risk, helping these groups to produce a publication that promotes understanding in the Nipissing Forest watershed.

"Fred's forest volunteer efforts span local, regional, national and international involvement and interest," said current CIF/IFC President Mark Kube of Edmonton Alberta. "He is always promoting forest sustainability and sound

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Reminder for AGM

***This is a potluck dinner meeting - please bring a dish to share, and your own plates, utensils, and cups.
Coffee and tea will be provided.***

Welcome! - New Member

Diane Bergeron

Congratulations, Fred!, *con't from Pg.1*

stewardship, recognizing the ecological, the social and the economic importance of forests. The nomination information that our committee submitted to the UN emphasized this extraordinary personal and professional effort.”

“Fred's positive and unique approach to life and his love of all things relating to the forest is infectious,” said CIF/IFC Executive Director John Pineau. “He has a passion and energy that is unrivalled. Fred is a unique combination of visionary and leader, as well as providing ready and willing hands to get things done. That is the idea behind his vision for Forests without Borders.”

Empire Of The Beetle by Andrew Nikiforuk

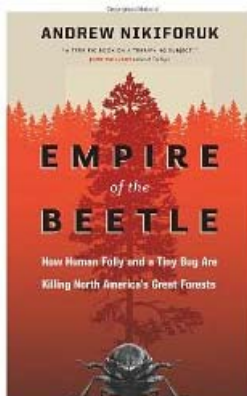
Published by Greystone Books, Vancouver in 2011

Book Review by Fred Pinto

Insect or disease epidemics have always fascinated people. If these epidemics threaten human interests some kind of response is usually called upon. The book describes bark beetle epidemics in Europe and N. America and the usual responses people have mounted to stop the epidemics. These responses have traditionally been simplistic. Cut down or debark dying trees and use insecticides. These responses have been unsuccessful, even though the proponents, after spending a lot of public funds try to call them successes. The epidemics died out as a result of natural events such as a very cold winter.

The book was written to describe the events around the most recent outbreak of mountain pine bark beetles (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) in western N. America. This species like other bark beetles carry fungi, some of these fungi produce food that the beetle larvae feed on. We only know a bit about this symbiotic relationship, what we do know is astounding. The beetle carries different strains and types of fungi that grow well under different environmental conditions. When the weather is warmer certain strains do better and when the weather is cooler others do well thereby expanding the duration reproduction in the growing season. The fungi are able to tap into the nitrogen supplies of the sapwood as the living tissue under the bark is nitrogen limited. This enables the beetle larvae to get its energy supplies from the living tissue and up to 40% more nitrogen from the sapwood – like feeding on junk food and sucking on a nutrient supplement. The fungi also play a role in producing precursors of hormones that the beetles need to lay eggs and molt.

The author makes an attempt to describe the ecology of bark beetles, particularly mountain pine bark beetles. Unfortunately little is know about this aspect of the beetles



Snowy Owls Video

Provided by Fred Pinto

Here is a link to a short video from Cornell University's Orthinology Lab on Snowy Owls. Snowy Owls have moved south this winter and we have already seen some in the city. All of the Snowy Owls seen were emaciated and dehydrated. Some were captured, stabilized by a local vet and sent to the owl rehabilitation centre.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ufkcx-UqljM&feature=relmfu>



– something that we should all be surprised and disappointed as many millions of public dollars have been spent to map, monitor, and cut out infected trees. The book also describes ideas that most people may consider as way outside the box. The Pueblo elders in SW states say that the beetles come when the trees cry. It was discovered that trees make particular popping, creaking and swooshing sounds when under drought stress. Bark beetles appear to be able to pick these sounds up and target these trees. In turn the beetles make sound of their own when feeding

and mating. Some people have tried to use sound warfare to deter the beetles. To hear a sample of beetle sound click on this website:

<http://www.acousticology.org/dunn/solitsounds.html>

The book tends to approach the beetle epidemics from a perspective that modern human impact and response is the cause of the epidemics and industrial approaches to dealing with them are futile at best. This approach has been used by most writers on environmental subjects – I suppose it helps sell more books. Such a perspective tends to clearly show that there are two sides to environmental issues allowing the reader to feel superior and able to continue his/her lifestyle that in most cases is the driving force behind the some of the changes we see in the environment.

Bark beetle epidemics have been occurring for millions of years and will continue in the future. Our activities, fire suppression that increased lodge pole pine abundance and their age, desire to retain older forests, and warmer winters due to climate change, have resulted in the severity and extent of the current mountain pine bark beetle epidemic in western N. America. The book misses an opportunity to inform readers that nature is dynamic and it does not create a steady supply of products for humans – which lead humans to invent agriculture and the industrial age and this in turn lead to environmental problems. If we are to solve these complex ever changing problems we will all need to be aware of our own role in creating the issues we face.

Calendar of Events

Next General Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Annual General Meeting

Potluck supper, silent auction, photo contest winners.

Silent Auction

At the January AGM meeting we not only have a wonderful potluck dinner, we will also have a silent auction!

Bring your new or gently used contribution to the meeting. In the past we have had gourmet dinner certificates, hiking boots, paintings, books, gardening items, bird feeders, silk plants, candles, household items, etc. The list goes on and on!

Bidding sheets will be provided. Payment is by cash. All proceeds go to the Nipissing Naturalists Club.

Saturday, February 4, 2012

Event: Snowshoe Hike and Tower Tour with MNR

Details: Starts at 10:00 am. Cost will be \$5 per person, which covers snowshoes, the hike, and the tower tour. For more information, contact Karen Major at 705-776-1004 or email kfmajor@yahoo.com

Full details will be circulated closer to the date.

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Topic: Reptiles

Speaker: Joe Crowley, MNR Peterborough

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Topic: Black Ash in the Nipissing Area

Speaker: Elisha Townsend, undergraduate student at Nipissing U.

Monthly Bird-Bash

Saturday & Sunday:

Jan 14 & 15, Feb 11 & 12, March 24 & 25

Spend some time observing our local birds and report on how many species of birds you saw. Submit reports to Dick Tafel, rtafel@sympatico.ca or 705 472-7907.

Birdwing Meeting

Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Bird watching topics will be discussed. Meet at the library (auditorium). Contact Dick Tafel, rtafel@sympatico.ca or 472-7907 for more information.

Christmas Bird Count

Mashkinonje Bird Count

Monday, January 2, 2012

Coordinator - Angela Martin

Call 594-1153 or email welcome@ontera.net

- ~ In the morning, search the circle for birds.
- ~ In the afternoon, search for birds by snowshoe or continue searching by car.
- ~ In the evening, compile results and enjoy a dinner provided by Gary & Angela.

A note from the Editor...

The Nipissing Naturalists are very proud of Fred and his accomplishments. Fred is one of fifteen short-listed finalists for the Forest Heroes Programme and Awards. In the first round of candidates, ninety nominations from forty-one countries were submitted. The regional breakdown: Asia (24); Africa (20); Latin America and the Caribbean (18); Europe (15) and North America (13). Three finalists from each region are in the running for one prestigious award in each region.

Fred was not aware of his nomination, and only received word of it when he was short-listed. The nomination does not relate to his work with the MNR as the UN was looking for people that did things beyond their paid jobs.

"The finalists for the Forest Heroes award demonstrate the many different ways individual initiative and innovation can lead to change: organizing communities to protect or restore forest ecosystems, teaching children the importance of forests, or advocating for reform of public policies or corporate practices – all are important," said Ms. Frances Seymour, Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and member of the jury panel.

Winners will be announced and awarded at the Forests 2011 closing ceremony at the United Nations in New York in January 2012. The UNFF will feature the stories and work of all five winners on the International Year of the Forest 2011 website to inspire and influence all of us.

And, to hear CBC radio's Morning North interview with Fred, go to: <http://www.cbc.ca/morningnorth/past-episodes/2011/12/22/north-bay-man-shortlisted-for-forest-hero-award-by-un/> High speed is recommended.

Note Cards:

The 2011 Photo Contest winning photos will be made into note cards. They can be used for any occasion; birthday, get well, congratulations... All 8 cards come in one package including envelopes for \$10. They are beautiful!

Contact: Lois Filion 476-9665 to place your order.