

Gleanings

Books

The Jade Garden: new & notable plants from Asia
Peter Wharton. Brent Hine and Douglas Justice. 2005
Timber Press, Portland, OR.

The most recent publication from the UBC Botanical Garden and centre for Plant Research. A review of this publication will appear in a future issue of Davidsonia.

Home Place: essays on ecology
Stan Rowe. first published 1990
NeWest Press, Edmonton

This book has been recently updated and re-issued. Stan Rowe was one of Canada's greatest ecologists. He spent almost all his academic life at the University of Saskatchewan and he and his students made many major contributions to ecology, particularly to our understanding of the prairie. This collection of essays give us the type of perspective that scientists rarely provide. A great read for any who want to understand the person behind the science as well as to find a rigorous assessment of the bigger issues as they were emerging to haunt us today.

Journal articles

Understorey responses to mechanical restoration and drought with
montane forests of British Columbia

H.N. Page, E.W. Bork and R.F. Newman. 2005
BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management 6 (1): 8-21

A research report of work done in the Interior Douglas-fir and Ponderosa Pine ecosystems of the East Kootenay region of southeastern British Columbia. Results show that tree density (referred to as ingrowth) is inversely related to understorey shrub and herb abundance.

However, mechanical thinning at the study sites also reduced abundance of many important understorey taxa in the short term. This effect was particularly marked if the thinning was accompanied by drought.

The restoration potential of the Mesopotamian marshes of Iraq.
C.J. Richardson, P. Reiss, N.A. Hussain, A.J. Alwash and D.J. Pool.
2005
Science 307(5713): 1307-1311

A collaborative study by researchers from the USA and Iraq that begins to assess the impact of the uncontrolled releases of Tigris and Euphrates River waters after outbreak of the 2003 war in Iraq. Much work remains, but the report indicates that the only remaining natural marsh, the Al-Hawizeh, which is located on the Iranian border, may become a native re-population centre from which successful restoration of more wetland may be achieved. The paper provides a useful model for other restoration efforts in other parts of the world and may have relevance to coastal restoration and remediation work on Canada's west coast.