

# Gleanings

**Notes on papers (some technical and others less so) that may be of interest**

## Journal articles

**Old forest remnants contribute to sustaining biodiversity:  
The case of the Albert River valley.  
Houde, I., Ledech, S., Bunnell, F.L., Spribille, T.  
and Björk, C. 2007  
BC journal of Ecosystems and management 8: 43-52.**

A survey of lichens and plants in a disjunct Interior Cedar Hemlock moist cool area within the Invermere Timber Supply Area of BC. This variant lies on calcareous soil and included 10% of the total vascular plants known from BC. Of these 8 are either Blue- or Red-listed. Seven of the lichens reported may be new to science. The message is that remnant and disjunct communities may well be critical to sustaining biodiversity. This area may have been missed had its presence been left to the so-called 'coarse filter approaches'. In short there is not a substitute for field surveys.

## Commentary

**Is transplanting an effective means of  
preserving vegetation?  
Fahselt, D. 2007  
Canadian Journal of Botany 87: 1007-1017**

Transplantation may be a long-standing and relatively successful practice in horticulture, but Fahselt points to limited past successes as a conservation practice. Indeed she argues that experimentation has tended to be more useful at explaining failures rather than enhancing community survival.

The November and December 2007 issues (Volume 87: numbers 11 and 12) of the Canadian Journal of Botany are parts of a Special Issue, entitled Poplar Research in Canada, guest edited by Janice Cooke (University of Alberta) and Stewart Rood (University of Lethbridge). The

papers cover a wide range of research, but the review by Rood et al., the Commentary by Cook and Rood, and the review by Phillippe and Bohlmann set the scene for the non-specialist and expert reader alike.

## Review article

### **Floods, fire and ice: disturbance ecology of riparian cottonwoods**

**Rood, S.B., Goater, L.A., Mahoney, J.M., Pearce, C.M.  
and Smith, D.G. 2007.**

**Canadian Journal of Botany 85: 1019-1032**

An invited paper recognizing Stewart Rood's long and distinguished research on cottonwoods, riparian ecosystems and just plain 'big trees'. Much of Rood's work has been along rivers flowing down the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Five *Populus* species overlap and four hybridize in the region. It is refreshing to read recommendations "that river resource managers seek to allow flood and ice disturbance, and additionally, fire may provide a managed disturbance that could rejuvenate overmature cottonwood groves along some regulated rivers".

## Commentary

### **Trees of the people: the growing science of poplars in Canada and worldwide**

**Cooke, J.E.K. and Rood, S.B. 2007**

**Canadian Journal of Botany 87: 1103-1110.**

The Guest Editors of the 13 papers published in the November and December issues of Canadian Journal Botany provide a valuable context for publishing these papers as a special issue.

## Review article

### **Poplar defense against insect herbivores Phillippe, R.N. and Bohlmann, J. 2007**

**Canadian Journal of Botany 87: 1111-1126**

Bohlmann's research group at the UBC Michael Smith Laboratories is established as leaders in secondary compounds and their 'value' to plants. The links back to genomics are well presented in this review.