

THE SOILED PROFILE



NEWSLETTER DEPARTMENT OF SOIL SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA “bringing you the latest dirt”



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

For general inquiries or if you have material to include in the newsletter:

Lynda Closson
University of Manitoba
Room 362 Ellis Bldg
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2

Phone: 204 474-8153, Fax: 204 474-7642
Email: lynda.closson@umanitoba.ca
Past issues of the Soiled Profile are now on our
webpage: [umanitoba.ca/afs/soil science/](http://umanitoba.ca/afs/soil%20science/)

11 March 2016

Upcoming:

Wednesday, March 23, 12:30 p.m., Room 346 Ellis Building – Soil Science seminar series. Mr. Mitchell Timmerman, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. Title: TBA.

Wednesday, March 30, 1:00 p.m. – Soil Science M.Sc. Thesis Defense, Room 346 Ellis Building. Ashley Soloway. “A comparison of gap-filling methods for a long-term eddy covariance dataset from a northern old-growth black spruce forest”.

Wednesday, April 6, 12:30 p.m., Room 346 Ellis Building – Soil Science seminar series. Dr. Don Flaten, Department of Soil Science. Title: TBA.

Wednesday, April 13, 12:30 p.m., Room 346 Ellis Building – Soil Science seminar series. Dr. Tee Boon Goh, Department of Soil Science. Title: TBA.

Tuesday, May 3, Room 346 Ellis Building – Soil Science spring orientation. More details to follow.

Department Staff Away:

Lynda Closson	Mar 18 (afternoon), Mar 21-24 (vacation)
Jennifer Henderson	Mar 23 (away)
Bo Pan	Mar 7-14, 21-24, 28 (vacation)
Tim Stem	Mar 14-18 (vacation)
Paul Bullock	Apr 11 - 24 (vacation)

News:

Thank-you to Ike, Megan and Fernanda

Ike, Megan and Fernanda set up an interactive display booth on behalf of Soil Science for the CanU Inspire wrap up on March 2, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Marshall McLuhan Hall in University Centre. The event was well-attended by a large group of students that kept our grad student team busy at the booth for the evening. We extend sincere appreciation to them for their time and efforts to raise the profile of Soil Science.

Fort Whyte Alive

Megan also arranged a winter tour that several grad students attended at Fort Whyte Alive on February 27. It was enjoyed by all and Mayowa took lots of pictures (see a small sample below).





Opportunities:

Two Anticipated M.Sc. Opportunities in Soil Science, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK

Working in partnership with Kaminak Gold Corporation (KGC) the aim is to develop site-specific restoration materials and techniques for the Coffee Gold Project located 130 km south of Dawson City, Yukon. The project will characterize the rhizosphere (i.e. soil that is influenced by roots and associated soil microorganisms) of northern native plants that are potential candidates for restoration. It will also develop site-specific materials for restoration, including examining the impact of stockpiling on a local peat soil amendment and the interactions of the peat amendment with above and belowground plant-soil systems. This research seeks to understand the linkages between the composition and structure (diversity and abundance) of plant roots, soil bacteria, fungi, and archaea and critical ecosystem functions (soil nitrogen and carbon cycling and storage) as restoration proceeds. By working in collaboration with industry on an active exploration site, students will gain both an understanding of boreal ecosystem dynamics and the challenges faced by companies operating in a northern environment. Furthermore, the project will continue to work closely with KGC's Environmental Monitoring team and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) citizens to facilitate local community involvement in the on-going restoration process. Through this training, research and outreach the aim is to develop innovative restoration techniques that will ensure the long-term ecosystem health of Canada's North.

1) M.Sc. Restoration of northern plant-soil systems. The MSc student will be expected to work collaboratively with other university-based project team members and KGC in establishing and monitoring a series of revegetation trials. Various locally available soil amendments, including peat, will be assessed for suitability both in the laboratory and field. While aboveground restoration success of seeding trials and

plant-soil plugs will be monitored the focus of the project will be on belowground systems and recovery of ecosystem processes in these landscapes. Rhizosphere characterization of native boreal species suitable for restoration will be conducted in field and laboratory trials. The student will be expected to work collaboratively with the Kaminak's Environmental Monitoring team, which will include providing background project information and on-site training. The MSc student will be supervised by Dr. Katherine Stewart at the University of Saskatchewan. The student will be expected to complete field work during the months of June-August in the Yukon. The expected starting date for this 3 year project will be May 1, 2016. The stipend for this position is \$22,695 including benefits per year for 2 years. Interested candidates should submit a CV, three references and unofficial transcripts to Dr. Katherine Stewart (katherine.stewart@usask.ca). For more information please contact Dr. Stewart.

2) M.Sc. Boreal rhizosphere dynamics in peat-amended soils. The MSc student will have the opportunity to conduct field and laboratory studies aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of using on-site peat amendments to restore belowground ecosystem processes in mechanically disturbed soils in subalpine and alpine ecotypes. The student will establish field trials at these sites in the Yukon in close collaboration with other members of the U of S research team and local KGC employees and TH community members. The student will also conduct greenhouse trials to take a focused examination of the mechanisms driving rhizosphere processes in native plant species amended with peat materials. This will involve using ¹³C-stable isotope labelling and laboratory techniques in soil biogeochemistry and microbiology. Qualifications: The student must have a BSc in Environmental Science, Renewable Resource Management, Soil Science, Biochemistry, Microbiology or related disciplines. Students wishing to learn and combine strong laboratory skills with a desire to be outdoors and gain on-site field experience are strongly encouraged to apply. The MSc student will be supervised by Dr. Melissa Arcand at the University of Saskatchewan. The student will be expected to complete field work during the months of June-August in the Yukon. Greenhouse studies, laboratory analyses, and course requirements will be completed in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Saskatchewan. The expected starting date for this 3 year project will be May 1, 2016. The stipend for this position is \$22,695 including benefits per year for 2 years. Interested candidates should submit a CV, three references and unofficial transcripts to Dr. Melissa Arcand (melissa.arcand@usask.ca). For more information please contact Dr. Arcand.

Events:

Canadian Light Source 19th Annual Users' Meeting and Workshops, May 2-3, Saskatoon, SK

The Users' Advisory Committee is announcing the 19th Annual Users' Meeting for May 2-3 at Marquis Hall, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. This year's two day event will include a full day of workshops in "Macromolecular Structure (MX) Automation", "Nano-Infrared Spectroscopy" and "Opportunities for Hard X-ray Scattering". The following day will be the Annual Users' Meeting, Vendor Exhibition Poster Session Wine & Cheese and Banquet Dinner.

Poster Session Categories: Materials Science, Macromolecular Structures, Geological/Environmental Science, Biological/Life Sciences. Abstract submission deadline is **Friday, April 1, 2016**.

A travel subsidy is available to Annual Users' Meeting attendees presenting a poster. Application deadline for the travel subsidy is **Friday, June 3, 2016**.

Visit www.lightsource.ca/events/meeting2016 for updates or contact clsuo@lightsource.ca or (306) 657-3700 if you have questions.