Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources | University of Manitoba

Riddell Faculty Seminar Series presents:

Bringing Back PEI's Native Forests -
The Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project

Gary Schneider, Project Coordinator,
Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project

Date: Tuesday, January 26th, 2016
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Place: Klaus Hochheim Theatre
(5th floor, Wallace Building)

Abstract: European explorers described the forests of Prince Edward Island as the equal of any along the northeastern seacoast. Sadly, three centuries of land clearing and harvesting have resulted in the native Acadian forest being listed by the World Wildlife Fund as one of six endangered forest habitats in North America.

After spending years trying to convince the provincial government to abandon its fixation on clearcuts and conifer plantations, another path was pursued resulting in the establishment of the Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project on 60 hectares in Orwell, PEI. The project involves a 2-hectare native plant nursery, a native plant arboretum, school programs up to the university level and summer nature camps. More recently, the provincial government has also turned over the management of 800 hectares of Public Forest Land to Macphail Woods, and staff continue to work with private landowners, watershed groups, municipalities and schools to bring back native forests.

Gary's talk will explain these outcomes, the successful reintroduction of many native species and plans for the future. He will also discuss building community as a key component to moving ahead on resource management issues.

Biography: Gary co-chairs the Environmental Coalition of Prince Edward Island and started the Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project in 1991. The project demonstrates ecologically-sound forest management and restoration, meaning Gary is heavily involved in environmental education, conservation of rare plants and the restoration of the native Acadian forest. In 2004, Macphail Woods won the Canadian Geographic's Gold Medal Award in Restoration and Rehabilitation. Gary lives in Tea Hill.

12:00 p.m. Free pizza lunch for graduate students with Gary Schneider, CEOS Boardroom - 477 Wallace Building.

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