

LESSER SLAVE FOREST EDUCATION SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

September 2013 — August 2014

The Lesser Slave Forest Education Society is a non-profit registered charity committed to *“Forest Focused Environmental Education”*.

We Are Growing!

Quick Facts:

- ▲ Over 60,350 participants learned about the boreal forest in 14 years
- ▲ 5156 students, 1654 adults for a total of 6810 participants in 2013/14
- ▲ 237 fieldtrips and 68 classroom presentations for 2013/14
- ▲ Over 30 community outreach programs in 2013/14

▲ New Programs:

- ▲ Empowering Education - FireSmart Programs for Youth
- ▲ FireSmart Webinar - How FireSmart is your Community?
- ▲ Discovering the Boreal Biome - Science 10
- ▲ Development of Species at Risk Teacher Kit - near completion

“Each year the staff from the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society have actively engaged my students in very meaningful learning. They spend the day involved in hands on learning directly linked to their curriculum. Thanks MJ for re-enforcing the curriculum that we have taught.”

*Brenda Coulombe,
High Prairie Elementary School*



Hiking at the top of Marten Mountain

Inside Stories

- FRIAA News
- FireSmart News
- Highlights from Forest History Dinner
- What's new on our Website
- In memory of Bob Vanderwell and Gordon Buchanan



Bio 20 students studying the Boreal Forest Biome

FRIAA Funding is “FIRst” Rate

Since 2005, the Forest Resources Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) has been crucial in helping to fund the position of the Boreal Educator, Cori Klassen. Cori helps to deliver creative, dynamic and effective forest education programming for both the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society (LSFES) and the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation (BCBC). We are lucky to have her!

The LSFES brings the curriculum to life for all students from kindergarten to post-secondary undergraduates! They learn everything about the boreal forest through fun activities such as:

1. **Plant Survivor** - Will your plant outwit...outplay...and outlast? Will it be the ultimate survivor?
2. **Forest Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** - Who murdered Melvin the Moose? How did he die? Who are the suspects? Check out the crime scene to find out?
3. **Boreal Forest Amazing Race** - Contestants follow clues in the forest and are challenged to an environmental activity at each pit stop - Where is the next clue? Hold on, is that a road block? Who will be the first to finish?



Junior High students learning about wildlife

Introducing Boreal Man!

This winter, “**Boreal Man**” will be introduced to high school students as they discover Boreal Species at Risk. The LSFES and the BCBC have been working all year long to develop a special program that will help students understand the Species At Risk Act. (SARA)

Not only have we developed an innovative video about SARA, we also created a cool game called “**Survive or Perish!**” which is a take off on the kids game, Snakes and Ladders. Stay tuned for the grand premier of this program early in the new year. Special thanks to Trina Vercholuk for spearheading this project and making it shine! Kudos to FRIAA as well for funding the project!



The primary focus of this project is to increase public awareness and understanding of challenges faced by forest professionals every day as they try to manage the boreal forest landscape. Students will explore “real” issues experienced by forest managers and learn about the challenges of “Balancing the Boreal”.

Stay tuned for the “**Boreal Man**” in our upcoming project with high school classes who are studying about the process of Aboriginal Awareness Consultation!

FireSmart projects created:

1. Interactive Magnetic Board plus Building Materials Demo kit
2. Scavenger Hunt
3. Children's Home Assessment Activity
4. Lesson plans
5. Home Property Assessment Game
6. FireSmart Forest Fire Models
7. Community Series - FireSmart Education for Youth
8. Webinar- How FireSmart is Your Community?
9. FireSmart Videos for Youth
10. FireSmart Junior Officer Training Program - to tour schools in Winter 2015
11. FireSmart Manager Lesson Plan
12. How to Build Forest Fire Demonstration Models



FireSmart education for youth

FireSmart Education is Fantastic

FireSmart projects for youth, created by Susie vanderVaart and Trina Vercholak have been all the rage this last year. FireSmart concepts are often hard to explain to young people but with these two educators, students are saying "Ah, I get it!" We couldn't ask for anything more!

Since the Slave Lake fire in May, 2011, the Slave Lake Regional Tri-council has provided funding to develop and deliver educational programming for youth on FireSmart. Together with our educational partner the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation, we have created new and innovative FireSmart tools for youth and the general public.

The primary goal of this project is to develop and deliver educational programming regarding FireSmart activities for school and the general public. Through the delivery of effective and fun FireSmart education programs for youth, the ultimate goal is for them to take the FireSmart messages home to their parents, our area property owners.



Susie vanderVaart teaching grade 6 students about FireSmart.



FireSmart Stats: ♦ 35 school programs ♦ 43 public programs ♦ 3551 participants



Grade 5 student searching for marsh critters

Watershed Council Rocks!

Since 2009 the Lesser Slave Watershed Council (LSWC) has funded the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society to develop and teach water education programs. With their generous donation we are able to educate students about the importance of healthy water ecosystems.

Teachers are very happy with our fieldtrips as their students have fun while learning the curriculum. Who wouldn't have fun when you get to search for marsh critters, test water quality and explore spruce bogs. Thank you to Meghan Payne and Lindsay Fairfield of the LSWC for helping us to deliver great water education programs.

Watershed 101 - Coming April 22, 2015

Stay tuned for our new webinar with the Lesser Slave Watershed Council! Did you know a healthy watershed can provide clean water, plentiful fish, wildlife habitat and endless recreational opportunities? Come and explore the different parts of a watershed including wetlands and riparian areas and why they are called nature's kidneys. Log in and explore what defines watersheds and why they are important to us. To register email: work@northernlakescollege.ca



Students learning about the importance of a spruce bog

Fun Webinars

The LSFES partnered with Northern Lakes College to teach 2 webinars last year:

1. **Animal Tracks and Scat** – presented with Terry Kristoff, Management Forester, West Fraser



Terry Kristoff teaching about wildlife in the boreal forest

2. **How FireSmart is your Community?** - This webinar was presented in partnership with the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation and the Slave Lake Regional Tri-council.



LSWC Stats:

◆ 78 presentations ◆ 1308 Students ◆ 166 Adults

WorkWild

In 2013, the LSFES joined with the Alberta Forest Products Association and their WorkWild Program to educate youth about the variety of careers available in forestry.

For one week, in the spring and fall, our two groups promote forestry careers to all the junior and senior high schools in the Lesser Slave Lake region. In the 2013 - 2014 school year we saw over 300 students in 6 different communities.

For more information on careers in forestry, check out the WorkWild website at:

workwild.ca



Campers discover an unusual career with trappers, Darrell and Joanne Walde

Enviro-Quest Careers

Enviro-Quest camp is a summer day camp for youth ages 12-15 and is a joint project between the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society and the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation

The goal of this year's summer camp was to allow youth to explore careers and recreational opportunities in the boreal forest in a safe, fun and meaningful way. Programs and activities were designed to be hands-on and fun, while engaging the youth of our community in learning more about forestry and environmental sciences.

Campers were introduced to being a trapper, fisherman, tree planter, fire lookout, park interpreter, bird researcher as well as a woodland equipment operator using the simulator from WOLF (Woodland Operations Learning Foundation).

"I loved working on the logging simulator- it was a cool game!"

Grade 9 Enviro-quest camper



Ann Normand with WorkWild



WorkWild Stats:

◆ 19 presentations ◆ 6 communities ◆ 301 participants

Birds of a Feather Flock Together

Many thanks to our partner in environmental education, the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation (BCBC) for teaming up with the LSFES on various projects over the last 9 years. We would not be as successful without you! Both organizations benefit from shared staff, resources and professional expertise ...

"Together we are better!!"



Winners of the Alberta Forest Week Poster contest received a helicopter ride sponsored by AESRD. Wearing yellow overalls from left to right are Alexis Milley, Parker Hay, Cassidy Diamond, and Lexi Klatchuk



MJ with Patti Campsall, Executive Director for the BCBC

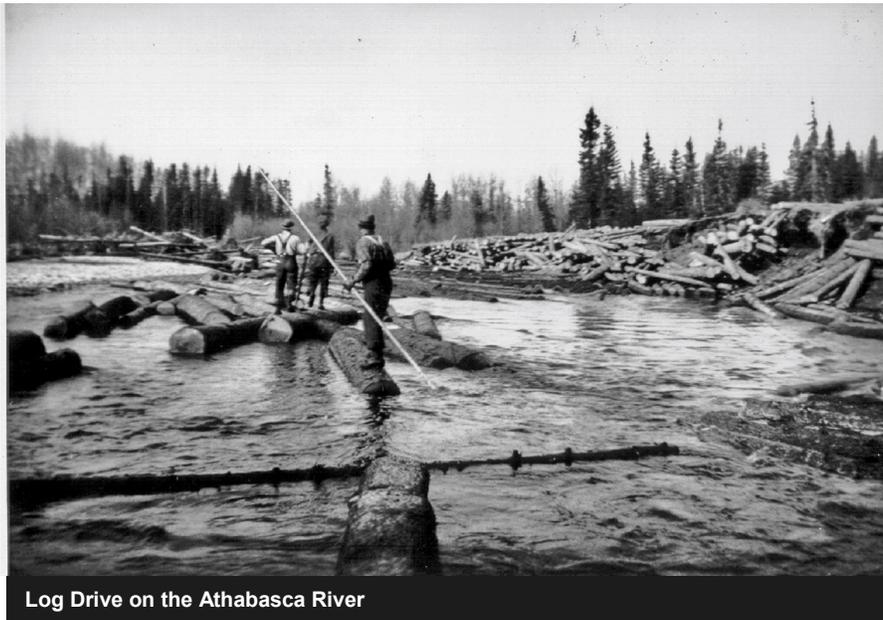
Alberta Forest Week

Alberta Forest Week is held the first week in May and for the last 14 years we have delivered forestry school tours for grade 6 classes. The trees and forest curriculum comes to life when students get to see forestry professionals in action. Over 320 students are taught by forestry volunteers from West Fraser, Vanderwell's, Tolko and Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD).

Students rotate through 5 different forestry stations where they interact with forestry experts in different activities. They have fun using cool tools like a clinometer to measure heights of trees; learn how to be a wildland fire fighter and plant trees for future forests.

"My students are taught the entire "trees and forest" curriculum in one day - its awesome!" Grade 6 Teacher Paula Murphy





Log Drive on the Athabasca River

LSFES has a New Website

We created a brand new look to our online presence and will be continuing to revamp the site over the next year. We will be adding up to date lesson plans, resources, pictures and videos of the boreal forest for anyone to download and use in their environmental education programming.

Please check back throughout the following year and see if we have an education program that fits your needs or call us and see if we can develop something for you.

You can check out the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society website at www.lsfes.org

Forest History Dinner a Big Hit!

We were very honored this year to co-host a spring dinner with Mr. Bruce Mayer from the Forest History Association of Alberta (FHAA). Over 200 guests were entertained with incredible stories of the History of Forestry in the Lesser Slave Lake region. It was a delightful evening of story telling, savory food and a very impressive forest history exhibit. The exhibit showcased the collection of historical artifacts from the FHAA; forest industry displays from West Fraser, Tolko and Vanderwell Contractors; as well as the Northshore Natural History Museum.

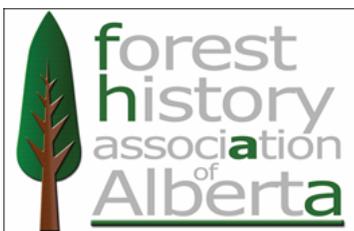
Peter Murphy was “TREEmendous”

Everyone attending was thoroughly captivated by our first speaker Mr. Peter Murphy and people were mesmerized by his story telling as well as his remarkable knowledge of forest history. His presentation took us from the first settlers in the Lesser Slave Lake area, all the way up to the 1930’s.

Terry and Con “Spruced” up the evening

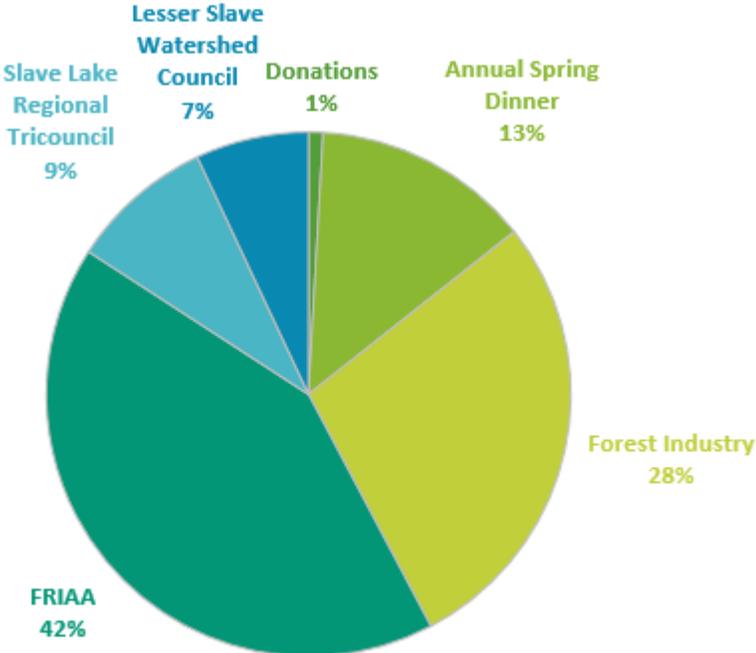
Mr. Con Dermott and Mr. Terry Kristoff had everyone chuckling in their seats with their witty banter of forest history from the 1940s to the 1970’s. Their quick repartee kept the audience fascinated not only by the incredible diverse history of the area but also by the deep family roots that go back for over 100 years.

The evening ended with a silent auction fund raiser. Many guests remarked that this was the best dinner that the LSFES has ever hosted so **THANK YOU** to all who made this such a big success!

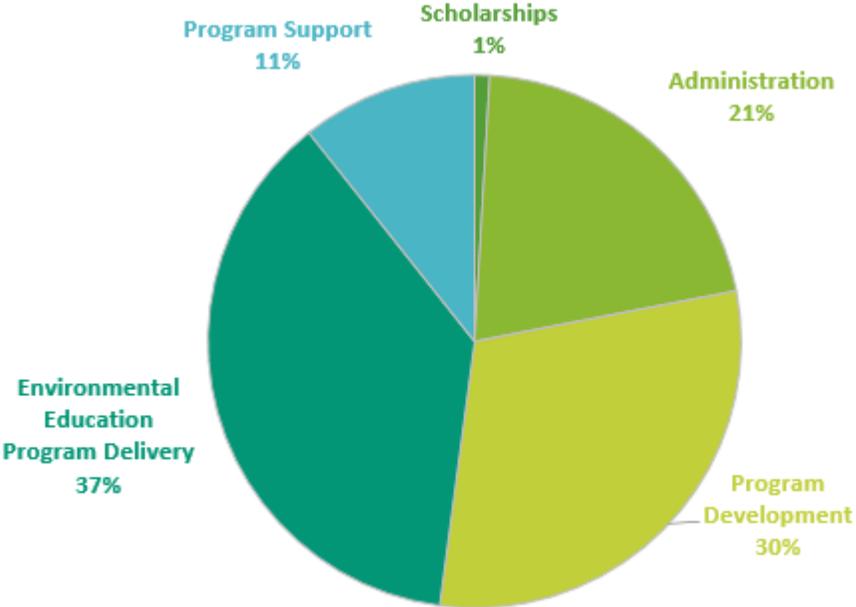


Left to right: MJ Kristoff, Terry Kristoff, Peter Murphy, Con Dermott and Bruce Mayer

2013/2014 FISCAL YEAR



WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



HOW DO WE SPEND THE MONEY?

Scholarship Winner



Congratulations to Slave Lake resident, Sharla Gullion, who is this year's winner of a \$500 scholarship from the LSFES.

Sharla is enrolled in the Forest Technology program at NAIT and she is also eligible to receive matching funds from Northern Alberta Development Council for a total of \$1000.

The Lesser Slave Forest Education Society gives out scholarships every year to students who are pursuing studies in forestry, forest products manufacturing, natural resources or environmental sciences.

We are also very grateful for our collaboration with the Boreal Research Institute in assisting us with our scholarship program .

Please check out our website below for more information!

lsfes.org

Forest Educators



MJ Munn-Kristoff
Executive Director



Cori Klassen
Boreal Educator



Susie vanderVaart
FireSmart Educator

Throughout the year we always need extra help - so a special **THANK YOU** to:

- ↑ Patti Campsall
- ↑ Tanis Blocka
- ↑ Trina Vercholuk
- ↑ Amy Slack
- ↑ Ceiridwen Robbins
- ↑ Michelle Karpa

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- Vanderwell Contractors Ltd.
- ↑ Gordon Sanders - Vice President
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- Buchanan Lumber / High Prairie Forest Products

In Memory

In 2014, the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society grieved the loss of two of our co-founders, **Mr. Bob Vanderwell and Mr. Gordon Buchanan**.

In 2000, both Vanderwell Contractors and Buchanan Lumber were instrumental in establishing the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society along with Weyerhaeuser and West Fraser. In a press release on October 1, 2000, the four co-founders announced:

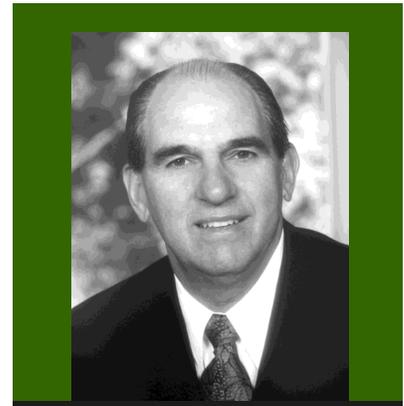
"We're very excited about our new society and the educational advantage the children will gain regarding our industry, and most importantly, the education they will receive regarding solid forest management practices currently carried out by all forest companies"

Together, Buchanan Lumber and Vanderwell Contractors have contributed substantially in funds, equipment, resources and professional expertise to the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society. We will be forever thankful for their generosity.

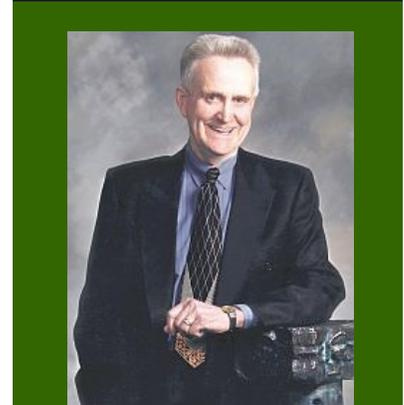
To honor the memory of our two co-founders, the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society will permanently keep their names on our letterhead for as long as the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society is operational.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Alberta Plywood Ltd. ♦ Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development ♦ Buchanan Lumber
Northern Lakes College ♦ Slave Lake Pulp ♦ Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. ♦ Tolko
Robert Vanderwell (1939 – 2014) ♦ Gordon Buchanan (1929 – 2014)



Mr. Bob Vanderwell (1939 - 2014)



Mr. Gordon Buchanan (1929 - 2014)

Why the LSFES is successful?

- ↑ Strong partnerships
- ↑ Excellent environmental educators
- ↑ Extraordinary volunteers and supporters
- ↑ Diverse offerings throughout all educational programs
- ↑ Continuous professional support from forest industry and AESRD

Who benefits?

- ↑ Students have fun, interactive outdoor experiences and receive scholarships
- ↑ Teachers have access to unique resources, professional expertise and better fieldtrips
- ↑ Industry demonstrates forest stewardship, interacts with communities and shares their knowledge
- ↑ Communities/families get unique leisure opportunities, current forest information and share in community spirit



Photo taken by Scott Allan

Thank you to our Core Funders



Thank you to all of our Supporters

- ↑ Alberta Forest Products Association
- ↑ B & W Rentals
- ↑ Bevan Davis
- ↑ Boreal Research Institute—NAIT
- ↑ Brenda Gagnon
- ↑ Cattail Cabins
- ↑ Cat Rentals
- ↑ Charity Beadow
- ↑ Chris and Crissy Schischikowsky
- ↑ Comact
- ↑ Continuing Education and Corporate Training-NLC
- ↑ Dale Sunderman
- ↑ Darcie Acton and Nelson Lutz
- ↑ Darrell and Joanne Walde
- ↑ Doug's Gourmet Catering
- ↑ Dr. Paul Caffarro and Priscille Caffarro
- ↑ Écolé Marie Poburan
- ↑ Edith Mackenzie and Pat Potvin
- ↑ Forest History Association of Alberta
- ↑ GreenLink Forestry Inc.
- ↑ Grizzly Ridge Honda
- ↑ Heather Robertson
- ↑ Horseshoe Creek Consulting
- ↑ Inside Education
- ↑ Jennifer Larmand
- ↑ Junior Forest Wardens
- ↑ Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory
- ↑ Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park
- ↑ Milestone Consulting
- ↑ Mistik Environmental Services
- ↑ Lesser Slave River Municipal District 124
- ↑ Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC)
- ↑ Roland Eben-Ebenau
- ↑ Roy Schneider
- ↑ Sarah Carson
- ↑ Slave Lake Rod and Gun Club
- ↑ Stephen Partington
- ↑ Town of Slave Lake
- ↑ Trim-Line
- ↑ WOLF (Woodland Operations Learning Foundation)
- ↑ WorkWild



Enviro-Quest campers finish tree planting on the grounds of Slave Lake Visitor Information Centre. Thank you to the students of École Marie Poburan in St. Albert for their generous donation which was used to buy seedlings to help beautify our community after the Slave Lake fire.

Contact Us

Your donation is key to our success and is tax deductible. Send your gift to:

**Lesser Slave Forest
Education Society**
1201 Main Street SE
Slave Lake, AB, T0G 2A3

(780) 849-8627

mj@lsfes.org

Or Contact:

Chris Schischikowsky at
(780) 805-3069

Visit us on the web at
www.lsfes.org



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