



## The Distinguished Forester and the Carbon Conundrum Top Day Two at ABCFP Conference

*By Kelly McCloskey, Tree Frog News Editor*



Topping off day-two of the ABCFP conference in Victoria was the President's Awards Banquet where more than a dozen forest professionals and others were honoured for their outstanding work in sustainably managing BC's forests. The association's highest honour for a member—the Distinguished Forester Award—went to Lorne Bedford RPF for his decades of work in forest practices and silviculture with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. The award recognizes an individual for outstanding service to the profession of forestry and for furthering the principles of the association. [The Tree Frog will have more on all the award winners next week]

Day two also featured no less than 15 expert panel speakers. And that was before lunch was served! The range of topics, which continued the theme of Managing Forests: Expectations vs. Realities, included:

- The role of the forest professional in managing for multiple uses
- The need to diversify our markets and products given the softwood lumber dispute
- Practicing forestry with First Nations as land managers
- Managing for water quality and sedimentation risks in cut blocks
- Strategies for effective community engagement

A feature panel [for us inquiring Frogs], was on the carbon conundrum and the potential of managing for timber and carbon at the same time. The experts included Dr. Werner Kurz, (Pacific Forestry Centre) Satnam Manhas (Ecotrust Canada) and Albert Nussbaum (BC Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch). The key takeaway being that climate change is serious business; the associated issues of wildfire and beetles are key to carbon management, and forests and forest management can play a helpful role.





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### Managing Forests: Expectations Vs. Realities

Dr. Kurz spoke of the opportunity to: i) store more carbon in our managed forests; ii) store the harvested carbon indefinitely in long-lived wood products; and iii) avoid GHG emissions by substituting wood products and biomass-fuels for more fossil fuel intensive products. He also spoke of the importance of benchmarking and measuring progress so that occasional failures don't distract from the carbon gains achieved. Manhas spoke to the need to incorporate carbon costs and benefits into our forest investment decisions and use discount rates that reflect the long-term outlook of communities. Finally, Nussbaum noted the challenges of incorporating a new 'forest value' into our inventory and modeling process but also its achievability, given that we already model for trade-offs. A key opportunity discussed by all was the use of fibre from slash piles.

