

# ASPECT

Definition: 'as - pekt / 1. a position facing a particular direction  
2. appearance to the eye & mind.

## THE DEGIFS NEWSLETTER

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### The "Editorial"

#### A DEGIFS Letter to Santa

Dear Santa,

I know that you're really busy these days, what with all the children needing toys, but DEGIFS has been very well-behaved this year and has put together a little wish list for you to work on in your spare time. DEGIFS would really appreciate the following:

- More jobs for engineers and geoscientists working in the forest sector;
- A member on APEGBC Council (no, wait, we've even got a VP!);
- A two-week long mid-winter (we're talking sustained minus 40°C) cold snap to kill the pine beetles;
- Resolution of the softwood lumber dispute;
- World peace;
- For all to have a glorious end of year holiday and a healthy, prosperous New Year!
- And, but of course, a partridge in a pear tree ... !

HO HO HO

*Jennifer Clarke and Rob Wilson, Editors*

*Please note the editorials are not written by the DEGIFS executive nor does the DEGIFS executive necessarily support or agree with the opinions and conclusions given by the editor.*

#### Jokes (attempts at humour)

##### Why did the forestry tech take a bath?

He wanted to get spruced up for the planting party!

##### Three DEGIFS members are asked: "How much is 2 plus 2?"

**Geomorphologist:** Um....about four

**Geotechnical Engineer:** 4 +/- 2

**Consulting Geoscientist/Engineer:** Well...what number would you like to see?

**Did you know that the world's most famous forester is a really poplar guy?**

YUK YUK YUK



## UP-CLOSE and PROFESSIONAL DEGIFS MEMBER PROFILE

### DEGIFS Member:

Scott Weston, M.Sc., P.Geo.

*Geomorphologist / Hydrologist,  
Madrone Environmental Services Ltd.  
Abbotsford, BC*

Interviewer: Jennifer Clarke



Photo: Scott Weston and son Cohen.

### Who is he and how did he get where he is?

Scott Weston is a geomorphologist / hydrologist (depending on who's asking) with the Abbotsford office of Madrone Environmental Services Ltd. Scott graduated from UBC with an undergraduate degree in physical geography and completed a 5<sup>th</sup> undergraduate year to immediately satisfy the P.Geo. course requirements.

Scott also completed a Masters of Environment and Management at Royal Roads University while working full-time. His thesis research examined the vulnerability of the Englishman River floodplain to climate change. Scott feels that this program, a blend of technical and business, has provided valuable skills for business management.

When not at work, Scott is learning the ropes of parenting with his 18 month old son Cohen. Adventure racing, triathlon, camping/hiking, gardening and wine collecting take up any remaining time.

### What does he do?

Scott is a principal of Madrone and manages a staff of five people in the Abbotsford office. He works on a variety of projects including watershed assessments, terrain mapping, and terrain hazard and hydrologic assessments for the forest sector. He also works on environmental impact assessments and a variety of other projects for the land development and mining sectors.

### What has been his favorite project experience?

Apparent is Scott's interest in the great outdoors, as all his favorite projects have to do with beautiful places. The most memorable, he says, was a large terrain mapping project in the remote Devastation Channel and Gartner Canal areas located south of Kitimat. Here, great co-workers, spectacular scenery and access by helicopter and boat made for a favorite project experience. Oh FRBC...

### If he could impart some advice to young DEGIFS members what would it be?

"Build a network." Scott feels that relationships with others are important for career success and satisfaction. In addition, he also says "learn how to write." He cringes when reading some of his early reports.

### In his opinion how can APEGBC or DEGIFS better meet the needs of its members?

Although very much appreciative of the work DEGIFS accomplishes, Scott feels that DEGIFS has lost much of the collaborative feel (and immediate relevance) that the organization once had. With a reduction in forest sector jobs for P.Eng./P.Geo's, many, including Scott have diversified into the land development or mining sector. As such, Scott would be interested in DEGIFS expanding its mandate to include other sectors.

In order to fulfill this need for collaboration on geomorphological matters, Scott has recently joined the geomorphology subgroup of the Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA)\*. Please refer to the blurb following this interview for more information on the CWRA and stay tuned for future updates on this group, including plans to organize a workshop in the fall of 2006 ([www.cwra.org](http://www.cwra.org)).



## If he could be any kind of geomorphological event, what would it be?

Although he has the seemingly common desire to be a fast-moving, large, and destructive geomorphological event, Scott wants to be a little bit different and unpredictable as a jokulhlaup, or glacial-outburst flood. These guys will catch you off guard at any time and may even flow in a direction opposite you might think.

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## \*Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) Geomorphology Sub-Committee

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to advance the science and standards of practice of geomorphology through an interdisciplinary approach.*

The group will:

- promote geomorphology as a discipline and encourage the use of geomorphology in scientific and engineering projects;
- facilitate discussion and exchange of ideas between geomorphology professionals in the CWRA including scientists, engineers, and academia;
- provide a forum within the CWRA to present geomorphology applications, solutions, and lessons learned; and,
- create opportunities for professional development and technical information sharing through conferences and workshops.

For more information on this group, contact Channa Pelpola, Chair at [CPelpola@jacqueswhitford.com](mailto:CPelpola@jacqueswhitford.com)

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Results of Results Based?

*Jeremy Araki, P.Eng., Forsite Consultants Ltd.*

As you know, we are moving to a more results based set of rules built upon professional reliance. This has put more onus on the Associations and their Members to take ownership of the practices and practitioners in their field. My question is: "What are we doing to help create a culture where professionals can make objective decisions and remain autonomous?"

In my travels selling my wares as a professional in the forest industry I have had the opportunity to see a wide variety of opinions of Foresters and Engineers. Specifically, my interest has been with how those who are actually practicing are interpreting/using the "Guidelines for Professional Services in the Forest Sector – Crossings." What I observed was surprising to me. The opinions from the foresters I spoke with varied significantly. Some would not change their current stance as they had always used P.Eng.'s to design their bridges. Others felt they needed to change their current practices to meet the requirements/intent of the guidelines. Others informed me that now that there was no longer a span restriction and the guideline says that you don't necessarily need to follow it, they would have their foresters design all bridges and, once in a while on a tough crossing, they would bring in a P.Eng. after the crossing was built to measure results.

My first reaction after reading the guideline was full support. I always had trouble with the old FRR span cut-offs as I have been involved in many structures with shorter spans that have serious and complex risk issues and, I would suggest, innovative engineering solutions. The guideline is very specific in its definition of a simple crossing. Further, I agreed with the importance of having a qualified coordinating professional to help make sure nothing fell through the cracks. However, upon further inspection, contemplation, and discussion, there seems to be some cracks left open.

First, have we just opened the doors to having foresters design all bridges? If so, are we confident that Foresters have the academic and experience requirements that give them all the tools they need to know what is within their scope? Then, what can we do to prevent the erosion in quality of professional services caused by unintentionally qualifying some Foresters to design bridges? Second, and continued from above, with the removal of a set of rules and the introduction of a guideline that is only effective if those who use/interpret it are very carefully examining how close they need to follow it, what are the Associations doing to provide an autonomous culture where objective decisions can be made? Finally, have we muddied the water of what the difference between planning and designing are so thoroughly that we can no longer really define "design?"

*ASPECT encourages letters to the editor(s) to further even more discussion on this topic that is relevant to us !!*



## **2005 APEGBC AGM DEGIFS SUMMARY**

Ron Jordens, P.Eng., DEGIFS 2005 AGM Coordinator

### **Field Trip to the Coquitlam Watershed**

The AGM started off with a well-planned (with plenty of superb box lunches) field trip into the Coquitlam watershed. 16 hardy participants signed up. Our thanks to Bob Cavill, RPF, Division Manager, Watersheds and his staff for hosting the trip and providing all the details at each site visited.

### **AGM Stats**

On average, 50 people attended each DEGIFS presentation where other streams had between 23 to 79 attendees.

### **Professional Service Award**

Congratulations go out to Doug VanDine P.Eng., P.Geo. and a DEGIFS member who received the C.J. Westerman Memorial Award given by APEGBC to a professional geoscientist who advances public recognition of the practice of professional geoscience in BC.

### **Thanks**

Thanks to all the speakers who gave presentations at the AGM. The effort and time you contributed for our benefit is much appreciated. Your willingness to participate made my job easier and enjoyable. And a special appreciation goes to Tracy Fraser, APEGBC Professional Development Coordinator who put the whole package together.

Thank you all.

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## **UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES OF THE PROFESSIONAL RELIANCE TASK FORCE (PRTF) – December 2005**

Submitted by Peter Mitchell, P.Eng., APEGBC

### **Background – What is the PRTF?**

A task force was struck earlier this year consisting of the four resource professional regulatory bodies: Association of BC Forest Professionals, Association of Engineers and Geoscientists of BC, BC Institute of

Agrologists, College of Applied Biologists of BC, and four provincial ministries: Forests and Range, Agriculture and Lands, Environment, and Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources. Forest and Range industry representatives will be encouraged to contribute to the work as it proceeds. The purpose of the task force is: *“to develop and communicate an agreed-upon description and model for application of the professional reliance principle to forest, range and environmental management in British Columbia.”*

The Task Force expects to complete its work by March 31, 2006.

### **What has the PRTF been up to since the last update?**

Since becoming reactivated in July 2005 the Task force has met by teleconference or in person monthly and communicated by e-mail between meetings. An internal discussion paper has been used to help develop a clearer description of the term “professional reliance” and define some of the commonly used language related to the principle.

The PRTF met on November 15, 2005 to discuss how the professional reliance concept fits with the non-statutory aspects of the Forest and Range Practices Act. A project that is being undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Forests and Range, and expected to be complete this winter will help inform the work of the PRTF.

The next steps for the PRTF will involve redrafting the internal discussion paper to make it suitable for broader review and input, as well as preparing a summary of the “gaps” that need to be addressed in order for the public, employers and professionals to derive the greatest benefit from application of professional reliance.

### **How can I contribute?**

By early January 2006 the PRTF expects to have a paper suitable for distribution to member organizations and other stakeholders for input. The paper will be in draft form, and will address parameters for defining and implementing professional reliance.



## TRUCK SAFE BRITISH COLUMBIA

Kevin Turner, P.Eng., Ministry of Forests and Range

Safety in the forest road transportation sector has recently come under scrutiny due to the increased fatalities and injuries over the past few years. With the mountain pine beetle salvage program and increased oil and gas activity particularly in the northern interior, resource road use is expected to increase dramatically over the next decade, raising safety concerns.

The following was extracted from the Truck Safe web site (see link below):

Truck Safe British Columbia is a project of the BC Forest Safety Council. This initiative is intended to develop and implement a comprehensive action plan for reducing fatalities and accidents in log, lumber, chip, crew and equipment movement in the forest sector. Fatalities, severity of accidents, lost time, and accident costs are higher in the forest industry than in the general trucking industry. Some of the agencies involved with this initiative include WCB, ICBC, RCMP, several forest industry, logging, and trucking associations, the Ministry of Forests and Range, Ministry of Transportation, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement, Chief Coroner, National Transportation Safety Board, and others.

The initiative will address the following aspects of truck safety: roads, trucks, drivers and communication. It will examine several factors, including the administration of forestry and public road infrastructure, better driver training, and elimination of jurisdictional issues compromising vehicle and road safety.

To date there have been two "Summit" meetings, one in Prince George in June 2005 and a second in Vancouver on October 26, 2005.

More information on the initiative can be obtained from the Truck Safe web site at:  
<http://www.bcforestsafe.org/trucksafe/about.asp>

Although to date APEGBC has not received any complaints or reports that have linked safety issues to the design of specific road sections by any of our Members, informal inquiries from concerned people concerning the level of engineering associated with forest roads have been reviewed. The issue does involve the practice of engineering and geoscience in the forest sector, as it relates directly to our mandate to "hold paramount the safety, health and

welfare of the public, the protection of the environment and promote health and safety within the workplace." The issue will be raised with the APEGBC/ABCFFP Joint Practices Board, as this is an area of practice that overlaps with the practice of professional forestry. Further developments with this issue will be reported in Aspect.

### MEMORANDUM

#### MINISTRY of FORESTS and RANGE

**Re: Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)**

**November 16, 2005**

*(please note this Memorandum was altered slightly by the ASPECT editors in order to be incorporated into the Aspect formatting framework and to facilitate reader comprehension)*

**To: Assistant Deputy Ministers**  
Regional Executive Directors  
District Managers

**From: Tim Sheldan**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Operations Division

**Jim Snetsinger**  
Chief Forester

Government and the forest industry are at a key stage of FRPA implementation. The law requires that by December 30, 2006 we must have approved *Forest Stewardship Plans* (FSPs) in order to obtain new cutting authorities. To date, only a few FSPs have been approved. We all face the significant challenge of getting FSPs in place and ensuring uninterrupted business continuity across the Province over the next year.

In order to address a substantial portion of this challenge, we and the industry have identified a number of key implementation issues related to FSP preparation and approval. Jointly, we have developed answers to these implementation issues that will provide for efficiency and consistency in plan preparation and approval.



The attached FRPA Administration Bulletin #3, titled "Issues Respecting FSP Planning and Approvals", is provided to you and your staff as a platform for efficient and consistent interpretation in reviewing and approving FSPs. The Bulletin will also provide for efficient and consistent interpretation for those preparing FSPs. (***This attachment was too large to include in ASPECT.***)

It is our intent to continue to provide FRPA Bulletin that will assist FSP plan preparation, reviews and approvals. The Provincial FRPA Implementation Team recently held a two day workshop on "sharing the learnings". The summary notes of this workshop will be distributed soon.

We appreciate everyone's diligence and efforts in the transition from the FPC to FRPA. We know that it will require a continued significant effort from everyone to reach the goal of completed FSP's by the end of next year. We strongly feel that the consistent answers to the questions addressed in the bullet will substantially assist FRPA implementation.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Charlie Western at 250-387-8306 or Ian Miller at 250-387-8398. As other issues arise we also encourage you to address these through your local or regional FRPA implementation teams, or to use the issue identification process managed by the Provincial FRPA Implementation Team (PFIT).

(ASPECT suggests to visit: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/> for more information)

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## **PUBLICATION / LINK UPDATE**

### **Publication of the FORREX – Forest Research Extension Partnership**

The current issue of *LINK*, a publication of the FORREX-Forest Research Extension Partnership, is available on line at:

<http://www.forrex.org/publications/LINK/>

Here is a brief description of all the articles in this issue. You may access the links through an electronic version of this article on the DEGIFS website or via the FORREX website listed above.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Contact Shelley Church at: [shelley.church@forrex.org](mailto:shelley.church@forrex.org)

1. [Identifying common ground for criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management in British Columbia](#)
2. [FIA Forest Science Program: What's new for 2005/06](#)
3. [Taking ecological restoration to the next level in B.C.](#)
4. [Reader response: Pine beetle article clarified](#)
5. [Lodgepole pine forests in central British Columbia: Silvicultural systems to address integrated management issues](#)
6. [Using group selection systems to maintain caribou habitat](#)
7. [New decision-support framework: Tool supports decisions on recovery of Northern Spotted Owl](#)
8. [Load sharing on log bridges](#)
9. [Sustainable Forest Initiative helps keep province a global leader in SFM](#)
10. [Lillooet-Lytton: Innovation and elbow grease bring viticulture project alive](#)
11. [Thirteen-year results: Growth and yield after pre-commercial thinning of Douglas-fir in the IDF](#)
12. [Research project database links previous and ongoing work](#)
13. [Northern partnership focused on sustainable resource management](#)
14. [Wet spruce subalpine-fir forests: Spatially explicit model predicts deadwood habitat](#)
15. [Ecological values, management, and marketing: Symposium highlights red alder](#)
16. [How much loss does DRA cause?](#)
17. [BC Wildlife Park breaks ground on new vision](#)
18. [Shelterwood silviculture trials address resource issues](#)
19. [Direct seeding: An option for British Columbia's north](#)



## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING UPDATE

Course Name	Date	Location	Price	Contact Info
Cable Logging	Feb 7-10/06 May 16-19/06	Vancouver Pr. George	\$750(US) \$925(Can)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="http://www.forestengineer.com/html/training.html">www.forestengineer.com/html/training.html</a></li> <li>Phone 541 754-7558</li> <li>Fax 541 754-7559</li> </ul>
Unit Planning & Layout Logger PC V4 Fuel Reduction on Steep Slopes Cost Control Skyline Payloads Multi-span Systems Guying & Anchoring Water Control Slope Staking	Oct/05 to May/06	Corvallis, Oregon	\$200-\$450 (US)	As above
Continuing Professional Development Courses – sponsored by APEGBC	On going	Various	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Innovation</li> <li><a href="http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/prodev_events.html">www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/prodev_events.html</a></li> <li>604 430-8035 or 1-888-430-8035</li> <li>email <a href="mailto:cpd@apeg.bc.ca">cpd@apeg.bc.ca</a></li> </ul>
Continuing Professional Development Courses – sponsored by Selkirk Management Services	On going	Various	Various	<a href="http://www.selkirk-management.com">www.selkirk-management.com</a>
FRPA training	On going	Various		<a href="http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/training/frpa/">www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/training/frpa/</a>
Forest Engineering Technology: A series of distance education courses offered by BCIT	On going	Various		Jim Rudolph 604 432-8941 <a href="http://www.construction.bcit.ca/distance/forest/">www.construction.bcit.ca/distance/forest/</a> Courses on road construction, maintenance, deactivation and many more.

### APEGBC

#### **Terrain Stability Assessment Guidelines**

January 31, 2006 - Nanaimo or via Webcast

February 7, 2006 – Prince George (PG)

Professionals working in the land based forest resource sector are accountable to the legislated authority which regulates their practice as well as other regulatory bodies that monitor these activities. This session will review the mandate of the Forest Practices Board and explore the Guidelines approved by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists for the carrying out of Terrain Stability Assessments in the Forest Sector.

For more information on the PG session, visit:

[http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/terrain\\_stability\\_pg.html](http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/terrain_stability_pg.html)

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For more information on the Nanaimo or webcast session, visit:

[http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/terrain\\_stability\\_nanaimo.html](http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/terrain_stability_nanaimo.html).

#### **2006 Northwest Stream Restoration Design Symposium**

January 31st - February 2nd, 2006

Dolce Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington.

This year there will also be three pre-symposium short courses on January 30th.

To see the full program and register for the

Symposium, visit: <http://rrnw.org/skamania2006/>

**December 2005**



## THE FROZEN LOGGER

By James Stevens

As I sat down one evening,  
'Twas in a small cafe,  
A forty year old waitress  
To me these words did say:

I see that you're a logger,  
And not a common bum,  
For no one but a logger  
Stirs coffee with his thumb.

I once had a logger lover,  
There's none like him today.  
If you poured whisky on it,  
He'd eat a bail of hay.

He never shaved a whisker  
Off of his horny hide;  
He hammered in the bristles,  
And bit them off inside.

My logger came to see me,  
'Twas on a winter's day;  
He held me in a fond embrace  
That broke three vertebrae.

He kissed me when we parted  
So hard it broke my jaw;  
I couldn't speak to tell him  
He forgot his mackinaw.

I saw my logger lover  
Go stridin' through the snow,  
A-goin' gaily homeward  
At forty-eight below.

The weather tried to freeze him,  
It did its very best;  
At a hundred degrees below zero,  
He buttoned up his vest.

It froze clear down to China,  
It froze to the stars above;  
At a thousand degrees below zero,  
It froze my logger love.

They tried in vain to thaw him,  
And if you believe it sir,  
They made him into axe blades  
To cut the Douglas Fir.

And so I lost my logger,  
And to this cafe I've come,  
And it's here I wait for someone  
To stir coffee with his thumb.

## DEGIFS CHRISTMAS WISH LIST PART II – FIELD GEAR



(Photo from 2002 Forest Geotech Catalogue)

### Hardhat

Orange, yellow, white or blue  
Comfortable head band adjusts to fit all sizes.  
Cost.....\$29.99

Cruiser Vest with fluorescent yellow safety stripes  
Back-pack and multiple pockets, weatherproof design  
Small, Medium and Large  
Cost.....\$115.99

Caulks, full leather, carbide tips  
Sizes 7 – 13  
Cost.....\$229.99

Field Shovel, long handled planting variety  
Cost.....\$59.99

Field Note Book – Duksbak note paper  
Cost.....\$29.99

Vice President of APEGBC, 2005-2006, Tim Smith,  
P.Geo., DEGIFS Past President

**Cost.....Priceless!**

*Editor – Rob Wilson*



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## Do Not Forget!!!

### ASPECT SUBMISSIONS

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO ASPECT	NEWSLETTER RELEASE DATE
MARCH 17, 2006	MARCH 31, 2006
JUNE 16, 2006	JUNE 30, 2006
SEPTEMBER 15, 2006	SEPTEMBER 29, 2006
DECEMBER 1, 2006	DECEMBER 15, 2006

Electronic submissions in **Word format (only)** should be made to Julie Orban ([julie.orban@gov.bc.ca](mailto:julie.orban@gov.bc.ca)) by the date listed above.

Refer to *Guidelines for Submission* on the website <http://www.degifs.com/guidelines.doc> for submission requirements.