

Yukon Invasive Species Council (YISC)

Pulling together to Meet the Challenge of Invasive Species

Workshop Speaker Biographies

Altherr Andrea

Andrea Altherr is the coordinator for the Yukon Invasive Species Council. Her love of the pristine Yukon wilderness brought her to join the council. info@yukoninvasives.com

Ball Matt

Matt Ball, Senior Agrologist, Agriculture Branch, Department of Energy Mines and Resources, Government of Yukon. Matthew.Ball@gov.yk.ca

Bennett Bruce

Bruce Bennett has been a plant taxonomist for over 20 years. He moved to Yukon in 1995 when he began to research invasive plants. He became a founding member of the Yukon Invasive Species Council (YISC) in 2004. His botanical work and interests have taken him throughout Yukon, Alaska, Northwest Territories and British Columbia. He has worked as a collections manager for the Royal BC Museum, a plant community technician with the Canadian Wildlife Service, a senior botanist with the University of Alaska and the US Parks Service and as a botanist for the Yukon's Conservation Data Centre. He has coauthored 14 papers on additions to the Yukon and NWT flora. Presently he is the cochair of the COSEWIC Vascular Plant Specialist Subcommittee, a regional reviewer for the Flora of North America and works for Environment Yukon as the coordinator for the Yukon Conservation Data Centre Bruce.Bennett@gov.yk.ca (867) 667-5331

Huggard Maureen

Maureen Huggard has lived in the Yukon for twenty years. She currently is a project manager on the closure and reclamation of the historic United Keno Hill Mining District project.

Her interest in restoration began in the late 1980's when working as a student on the Washington Creek riparian restoration project in Ontario. In light of renewed mining exploration in the Yukon, Maureen sees an opportunity for the development of more research and restoration projects in the Territory to ensure disturbed sites are re-established as part of healthy, functioning ecosystems. Understanding the behaviour of invasive plant species is an essential component in restoration plans Maureen is developing for the district. She has been a member of the Yukon Invasive Plant Species Council since 2007 and is a newly elected director.

Maureen recently completed the Restoration of Natural Systems program at the University of Victoria and is planning on entering the MSc program in Land Reclamation, Remediation and Restoration at the University of Alberta this fall. mhuggard@accessconsulting.ca

Leathem Jamie

Jamie is currently finishing her MSc in Botany at the University of British Columbia and also holds a BA in Psychology. She is about to start a six week internship with the Yukon Conservation Data Centre as part of the BRITE program at UBC. She loves all things plant-related and credits the Yukon for inspiring her love of botany, and looks forward to continuing to develop her passion for plants and the North here in the future. She would also like to combine her two fields of study in investigating human connections to nature and how they are important for health and development, with the goal of using this as evidence to support conservation initiatives. kermit@interchange.ubc.ca

Leung Maria

Maria Leung completed a MSc. at University of British Columbia and a BSc at University of Guelph, and has been a wildlife biologist for well over 20 years. She currently lives in Whitehorse where she pursues the conservation biology of mammals, birds, fish and invertebrates. Last year, she took on the task of drafting the document "Development of a framework for management of aquatic invasive species of concern for Yukon: Literature review, risk assessment and recommendations." for the Fisheries Section of Environment Yukon. leungreid@northwestel.net

Simpson Kirstie

K. Simpson, M.Sc, Senior Advisor, Sustainable and Integrated Resource Management, Department of Energy Mines and Resources, Government of Yukon. Kirstie.Simpson@gov.yk.ca

Kirstie Simpson has 30 years of northern and arctic experience as a scientist in the fields of resource management, environmental monitoring, environmental assessment, and regulatory permitting as well as research related to ecological responses to oil and gas exploration in both the marine and terrestrial environments. She has worked in a number of capacities in relation to Beaufort, Mackenzie Delta, Arctic

Islands and Yukon Oil and Gas exploration and development and is currently designing an Integrated Landscape Best Management Practices Model for industrial development in the Yukon.