

Email Update of Activities – DECEMBER 2016

Message from the Acting Registrar:

Recognized by the United Nations, Monday, December 5th is International Volunteer Day. It is important, therefore, to recognize, understand and express appreciation for the personal contributions, and personal sacrifices, of those who give so freely of their time and expertise to help make a difference. Volunteers are the lifeblood of BCIA! The BC Institute of Agrologists could not survive, much less thrive, without the commitment and dedication of its volunteers. On behalf of BCIA I would like to thank each and every one of you for helping to build a strong and caring organization. Thank you so much for your contribution, and for making a difference.

Don Rugg, P.Ag.

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1. DUES 2017

* Dues invoices are being mailed out early December (there may be an overlap with those that pay online). You may pay your dues online at www.bcia.com >Member Log-in >Dues Invoices/Receipts. Remember you must report your PD activities and area(s) of practice prior to paying your dues which are payable by February 15, 2017.

You will need to reset your password if you have forgotten it. Just click on Log-In at www.bcia.com > Request a Password > enter your existing email address we have on file and the system will email you a link to reset your password.

Please ensure we have your current contact information.

Once logged in we recommend that members check their contact information (phone numbers, physical, and email addresses) to ensure the information we have on file is correct.

For additional information on navigating the Members Area, go to [Questions about the Members](#) area under Members - Members FAQ.

Have any questions? Contact the BCIA office at admin@bcia.com or 250-380-9292.

2. What do Agrologists Do? Questionnaire

* As an Agrologist, you have no doubt been asked the question "What does an Agrologist do?" BCIA members work in a diverse range of fields. We would like to know more about what BCIA members do. This questionnaire is your opportunity to let others know what you do.

Members, please take a few minutes to download the questionnaire and answer six questions about yourself and your work. Go to 'Member's Resources' within the Members login area.

We will be using this information to help the public better understand who Agrologists are and what they do by including excerpts in brochures and newsletters and highlighting a different member each month on the website – Ben Rauscher, P.Ag. is our Featured Agrologist for December!

If you have photos to share, please send those as well to Bonnie at admin@bcia.com

3. Featured Agrologist for December – Ben Rauscher, P.Ag.

* Ben Rauscher, P.Ag. took a few minutes of his time to answer a few questions on his work in agrology and the interesting aspects of his job. Go to www.bcia.com > News & Announcements on the homepage.

4. Victoria & Islands Branch Activities

* PD Tour: Coast Environmental Bio-Remediation Facility on Thursday, December 3rd 9:30am – 11:30am at 9401 Trans Canada Hwy in Chemainus with Blair Tassone, Operations Manager – Environmental & Wastewater. Topics to be covered are: the history of Coast Environmental, a locally owned Vancouver Island company; how the soil remediation and composting facilities were developed; an in depth review of how impacted soils are accepted, treated, and discharged. Free event for members.

Full details and registration for this event are on the BCIA website at www.bcia.com
>Branches>Victoria & Islands Branch

5. Peace River Branch Activities

* A.Ag. and P.Ag. Meet & Greet in Dawson Creek (location TBA) on Tuesday, December 6th from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Speakers will present on their careers and discuss ethical challenges and solutions. Pizza will be provided.

If you are interested in attending, please email Vicki at vicki.burtt@bchydro.com. Vicki will let you know the location of the event.

* Save the Date: Branch AGM in Fort St. John at the North Peace Cultural Centre on January 20, 2017 from 9:30am – 3:00pm. Registration and further details will be available later in the year. We will also be looking for executive members for the 2017 year so if you are interested in serving on the executive or would like more information please contact Connor Fraleigh at Connor.Fraleigh@gov.bc.ca.

6. Cariboo Central Interior Branch Activities

* PD Event: Change and Opportunity for Northwest BC Agriculture on Thursday, December 8th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the Alpenhorn in Smithers, upstairs meeting room. Local Regional Agrologist John Stevenson, PAg will provide a presentation and discussion on: climate change in relation to Bulkley Valley agriculture; changes to the agriculture land base; new niches, technology and opportunity; social license. Appetizers and beverages will be provided - you can also order a full meal from the restaurant if desired.

RVSP to Steven Kiiskila (Steven.Kiiskila@gov.bc.ca) or cell 250-643-5322 by Tuesday December 6th

*PD Event: Viewing of the documentary Symphony of the Soil on Thursday, December 8th in Vanderhoof (Location TBA) at 6pm. This documentary by Deborah Koons Garcia, director of The Future of Food, is an artistic exploration of the miraculous substance soil. Filmed on four continents, it gives voice to an amazing cast of soil users: from scientists to farmers, activists to policy makers, historians to entrepreneurs featuring esteemed scientists and working farmers and ranchers. It also highlights possibilities of healthy soil creating healthy plants creating healthy humans living on a healthy planet.

If interested please contact either Amber.Merko@gov.bc.ca or Karen.Tabe@gov.bc.ca

*PD Event: Conducting Better Business Meetings – Board Governance on Thursday, December 15th 10:00am – 3:00pm at the Stuart Boardroom, 5th Floor, Plaza 400 Building, 1011-4th Avenue, Prince George. Will be facilitated by John Noonan, registered parliamentarian. Seating for the in-classroom session is limited to 20 participants; BCIA members only – cost is \$10.00. Lunch is provided. Some spaces in the workshop are still available.

*Full details and registration for this event are on the BCIA website at www.bcia.com
>Branches>CCI Branch*

7. Okanagan Branch Activities

*Save the Date: Branch AGM on February 9, 2017 at the Ramada Inn in Kelowna. Afternoon speaker (TBA) will be 3-5, networking from 5-6, dinner at 6, AGM 7-8 and an evening speaker (TBA) from 8-9. Registration and further details will be available soon.

8. Website Additions

*The following are what's been added to the BCIA website recently. Go to the BCIA home page then follow the prompts below and take a look/read.

Under www.bcia.com > Branches

**Okanagan Branch: Request for Nominations for Okanagan Branch Recognition Awards

**Kootenay Boundary Branch: 3rd Quarterly Newsletter

9. New Professional Development Sessions/Conferences by Different Organizations posted on the BCIA events page

*Site Remediation Webinar Series (Free) by GeoEnviroPro, Dec 9th

*Human Health & Ecological Risk Assessment Webinar Series by GeoEnviroPro, Dec 7 & 14th

*Growing for Tomorrow COGA Programs in Abbotsford and Kelowna, Jan 10; Feb 8

For more details any of the above events, go to www.bcia.com >Events

10. Job Postings

*Group Manager – Environmental Sciences * Associated Environmental * Burnaby

For more details on the above job postings go to www.bcia.com >Employment>Job Postings

11. Passing of Rod Negrave, P.Ag., Victoria & Islands Branch

*We were saddened to hear that Rod Negrave, P.Ag., passed away on November 23, 2016. Rod was an active member of BCIA for over 25 years, belonging to the Victoria & Islands Branch, and volunteering on the Branch Executive as a past President. Our thoughts are with his wife Louise Negrave, P.Ag. and family at this most difficult time.

If you have anything you would like posted to the web and included in the email update, or have any questions please let us know.

Thank you!