ARPFNB New Brunswick Forestry Hall of Fame Award: 2021

Name: Dr. David Andrew MacLean

Place of Birth: Fredericton, NB

Education

Public Schools:
Albert Street Junior High
Smythe Street Elementary
Charlotte Street Elementary

High School: Fredericton High, 1969

Post Secondary:
BSc (Biology), University of New Brunswick, 1973
PhD (Forest Ecology), University of New Brunswick, 1978
Post-doc, University of British Columbia, 1979

Greg Adams (left) Dave MacLean and Blake Brunsdon ,
president of the ARPFNB presenting Dave with his Hall of Fame Award

Outstanding Achievements:

Dr. MacLean has had a distinguished career for more than 40 years in forest science research and forestry and environmental science education. He joined the Canadian Forest Service in 1978 as a research scientist, specializing in long-term impacts of spruce budworm infestations in Acadian forests. During the early 1990s, he coordinated two large projects funded under Canada's Green Plan. These included many research collaborators in universities and governments across Canada. He is well-known for leading the development of the Spruce Budworm Decision Support System (SBWDSS), a tool that quantifies the impact of a potential outbreak to inform forest management decisions. In 1999, Dr. MacLean joined the UNB Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management as Dean. During his two terms as Dean, he led the development of the bachelor of science degree in environment and natural resources as well as the master's degree in environmental management. Following 10 years as Dean, Dr. MacLean continued at UNB as a Professor of Forest Ecology and is an internationally recognized expert. He is currently Emeritus Professor at the UNB in the Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management. Throughout his tenure as Dean, Professor and Professor Emeritus, Dr. MacLean has maintained a very active research program across a broad range of forest management and ecology topics which has seen him supervise more than 40 graduate students.

A hallmark of Dr. MacLean's career has been his interest and leadership abilities related to working with others in understanding and integrating forest ecological knowledge into practical forest management application at the Provincial, regional and national levels. He was heavily involved in the Centres of Excellence, Sustainable Forest Management Network (SFM) as well as Chair of the Canadian Model Forest Network (and as Chair of the Fundy Model Forest). He has led numerous successful research grant projects and served on the boards of nine national and regional organizations. Since the establishment in 1998 of the J.D. Irving, Limited Forest Research Advisory Committee (JDI FRAC), Dr. MacLean has been involved and has chaired the group since the mid 2000's (previously chaired by Dr. Gordon Baskerville). The group is made up of recognized scientists and professionals with goals of identifying, advocating and conducting research to address significant knowledge gaps (mainly related to biodiversity and ecological function) as well as empowering the forest manager to manage for a broader range of values. These efforts with the JDI FRAC have resulted in training of over 30 graduate students in major SFM, NSERC and company funded research projects.

Closely related to Dr. MacLean's career-long interest in the spruce budworm, since 2014, he has led the Spruce Budworm Early Intervention Strategy Project (EIS) focused on proactive detection and targeted spraying. This is an Atlantic region wide effort including the federal government, provinces, forest industry and the State of Maine which was initiated in response to the devastating spruce budworm epidemic in Quebec which had now grown to over 10 million hectares. To date, efforts have been extremely successful as evidenced by the fluctuating but low population levels in New Brunswick. The EIS project to date represents and investment of more than $100 million by all parties and efforts are continuing.

Dr. MacLean taught several courses at UNB related to forest ecology, disturbance, and professional development. Dr. MacLean showed a patience and commitment to having students understand and held a very high standard for written and verbal communication of complex information. His expertise in these matters has influenced many students and has contributed to improved resources management through the many students that have been guided by his leadership.

Given Dr. MacLean's outstanding contributions to forest ecology science, education of forestry and environmental science professionals and his dedicated efforts to integrate research into forest management, he is well deserved of the honour of joining the New Brunswick Forestry Hall of Fame.

Special Awards:

2008 – Canadian Forestry Scientific Achievement Award

2018 – Awarded Emeritus Professor recognition, University of New Brunswick, Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management