

*Message from H  l  ne Marcoux, Manager of the UBC Malcolm Knapp Research Forest.*

Greetings to all,

I'm pleased to announce two new roles as part of the education and outreach portfolio at the Malcolm Knapp Research Forest (MKRF) starting May 2, 2022.

**Victoria Farahbakhchian** has been promoted to a new role as the **Field Education Manager**. Victoria has been instrumental in field school planning and program delivery for 4 years at MKRF. She was also responsible for the growth and success of the Wild & Immersive outdoor learning for kids and youth at MKRF. In her new role, Victoria will be responsible to collaborating with Faculty organizers of 8+ field school programs delivered at the research forests – including organizing, teaching and safety planning. She will also continue leading strategic directions for Wild & Immersive. Victoria holds a BSc in Biology (U of Fraser Valley, 2015) and an MSc in Ecological Restoration (SFU/BCIT, 2017), is a member of the Maple Ridge Search & Rescue and a Biologist-in-Training with the College of Applied Biology. Victoria's contact info: [vfarahba@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:vfarahba@mail.ubc.ca).

**Christiane Smoroden** is now MKRF's new **Wild & Immersive Coordinator**. Chris has made significant contributions over the past 3 years to the Wild & Immersive program delivery and leadership. She is an engaging educator with a passion for developing hands-on, experiential learning experiences. In her new role, she will be responsible for program delivery for over 3000+ participants annually within pre-school and K-12 age groups – Wild & Immersive programs include Forest School, Spring & Summer Camps and various other specialty tours. Chris has a Bachelor of Science in Geological and Earth Sciences (Laurentian University, 2015). Chris' contact info: [christiane.smoroden@ubc.ca](mailto:christiane.smoroden@ubc.ca).

Please join me in congratulating Victoria and Chris in their new roles within the Malcolm Knapp Research Forest team.

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Greetings everyone,

I'm pleased to announce that **Sean Pledger** has joined the Malcolm Knapp Research Forest as the new **Resident Forester**. His appointment started on Monday May 2, 2022.

Sean is a UBC Forestry alumnus, having completed his BSF (2009) MSc (2016), and has since worked in industry for various licenses, as well as on forest certification audits across North America with Price Waterhouse Coopers. Sean is also an registered RPF with the ABCFP.

Sean will be tasked with all aspects of forest management at Malcolm Knapp, including silviculture and harvest operations – he will also be involved in supporting teaching & research activities at MKRF. We are very pleased to have him join the team.

If you have need of help from him, his email will be: [sean.pledger@ubc.ca](mailto:sean.pledger@ubc.ca) or phone 604-463-8148.

Please join me in welcoming Sean back to the Faculty.