



# UVic Forest Biology Update

Spring 2025

## Successful PhD defense!

Congratulations to Sarah Lane for a successful PhD defense on January 14, 2025. Her topic was, "Using iron deficiency stress in plants as a tool for discovery of novel iron chelators for human use." Way to go, Sarah!! Here Dr. Sarah is pictured with her supervisors, Dr. Walter and Dr. Ehling.



## Welcome to our Newest FORB Faculty Member – Dr. Steve Perlman!

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Steve Perlman as a new faculty member at FORB as of January.

Steve is an entomologist specializing in the evolution, ecology, and genetics of insect-microbe interactions, ranging from parasites and pathogens to beneficial symbionts.

Steve has worked extensively on fascinating forest insect systems, collaborating on projects involving Douglas-fir seed-parasitic wasps (with Patrick von Aderkas and Jürgen Ehling), poplar aphids (with Peter Constabel), and mountain pine beetles (with Kathy Bleiker at the Pacific Forestry Centre). Now, he is developing new collaborations across the province and establishing a local forest insect study system in his lab. We are fortunate to have Steve join our Centre, strengthening



connections among entomologists in BC—including outstanding colleagues at the Canadian Forest Service and the BC Ministry of Forests. Please join us in welcoming him to the FORB community!

## Environmental Simulation Facility Upgrade

As part of our CFI funded Environmental Simulation Facility upgrade in the Bev Glover complex, we are currently in the process of deconstructing our existing Growth Chambers for removal and relocation. At the end of February Chambers 1 and 10 were ready to be broken down.

At the start of March 2025 Chambers 1 and 10 were removed from the facility with our 3 remaining chambers set for deconstruction at the end of the term.





## New FORB Members



**Maxine Angeley**  
Dr. Perlman  
MSc



**Jacob Smallboy**  
Dr. Ehlting  
Research Assistant



**Callah McCarroll**  
Dr. Ehlting  
Research Assistant



**Heidi Sawyer**  
Dr. Hawkins  
Research Assistant



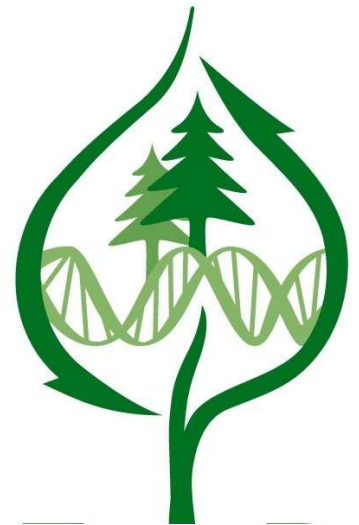
**Mackenzie McNiven**  
Dr. Ehlting/Dr. Look  
MSc



**Randi Church**  
Dr. Ehlting  
Directed Study

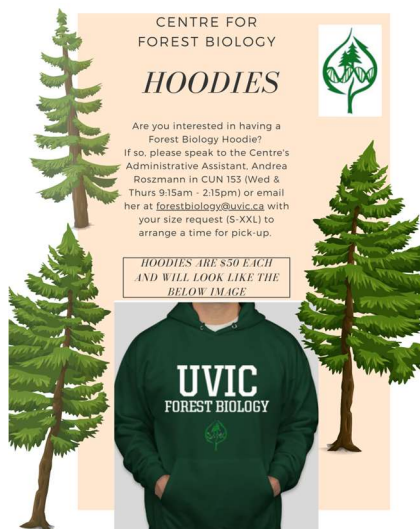


**Michaela Onasick**  
Dr. Ehlting  
Research Assistant



## FORB Hoodies!

Our FORB Hoodies are still for sale at \$50 each. If you would like one please pop by the FORB Office (Cunningham 153) with cash and pick one up! Office hours are Wednesday or Thursday 9:30am – 2:00pm



## Recent Publications

Coleman, M.D., Berch, S., Bonito, G., Allen B., Andrews, E., Arechiga Carvajal, E.T., Cook, S.P., D'Amours, C. D., Garibay-Orijel, R., Guevara, G., Hatzenbuehler, P., Hawkins, B., Heinse, R., Kernaghan, G., Lefevre, C., Lemmond, B., Meadows, I.M., Oneto, S., Sharma, J., Strawn, D.G., Tanney, J.B., Türkoğlu, A., Uehling, J., Winfree, J., & Smith, M.E. **Status of truffle science and cultivation in North America. *Plant Soil* (2024).** <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11104-024-06822-4>