



# UVic Forest Biology Update

Spring 2026

## Meet our Associate Member: Dr. Nancy Shackelford



Dr. Nancy Shackelford is an Associate Professor in the School of Environmental Studies and Academic Director of the Restoration of Natural Systems Program at the University of Victoria. Her research focuses on ecological restoration, community assembly, and the relationships between biodiversity, disturbance, and ecosystem function across terrestrial and coastal systems.

Her work examines how plant communities respond to environmental change, including altered disturbance regimes, invasive species, and climate stressors. She is particularly interested in how trait-based approaches and stress gradients can inform restoration outcomes and improve ecosystem resilience.

Much of her research is grounded in community-engaged and Indigenous-led restoration initiatives, linking ecological theory with on-the-ground stewardship and human values in socio-ecological systems. Her work aligns closely with FORB's interests in plant ecology, forest resilience, and ecosystem responses to global change.

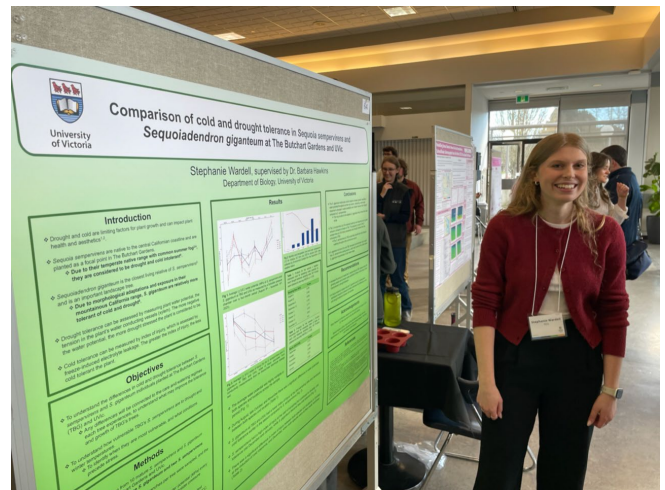
## Congratulations to Dr. Ehling!

Congrats to Dr. Jürgen Ehling on his successful position renewal as Director for the Centre for Forest Biology! We are happy to have you continuing as Director for another 5 years!



## Science Honours Fest - 2026!

Congrats to Steph Wardell on her Honours project!



## FORB Hoodies!

FORB Hoodies are still for sale at \$50 each. Pop by the FORB Office (CUN 153) with cash and pick one up! Office hours are Wed or Thurs 9:30am – 2:00pm

## New FORB Members



**Emma Scotland**  
Dr. Hawkins  
Directed Study



**Lucas Goodman**  
Dr. Hawkins  
Directed Study



**Anastasia Kim**  
Dr. Hawkins  
Directed Study



**Lawsen Augustowich**  
Dr. Perlman  
Directed Study



**Sarah Nielsen**  
Dr. Ehltling  
Directed Study



**Sonny Miller**  
Dr. Perlman  
Directed Study

## Sabbatical Report from Dr. C. Peter Constabel!

I'm at the Fondazione Edmund Mach, a leading Italian agricultural and viticultural research & teaching institute. It's built around a former monastery in the Dolomite mountains & surrounded by vineyards in San Michele all'Adige, just north of Trento. It's in a very scenic valley! They do some cool research on plant & fruit biotechnology, viticulture, & plant chemistry. I'll be here for a couple of months to work with collaborators on a project on tannin analysis & yeast biotechnology.



## Recent Publications

Yamakawa, D., Constabel, C.P., and Hawkins, B.J. 2025.

**Effects of Root Proanthocyanidins on Mycorrhizal Colonization and Nitrogen Uptake in Poplar.** *Tree Physiology*. tpaf152. <https://doi.org/10.1093/treephys/tpaf152>

Bernier, L., de Oliveira, T. C., Majeau, J.-A., Plourde, K. V., Jacobi, V., Tanguay, P., de la Bastide, P. Y., Hintz, W. E., Porth, I. M., Dufour, J., Hessenauer, P., Roden, C. A., Laflamme, C., & Varlet, L. (2026). **An Ammonium Transporter Gene Contributes to the Aggressiveness of the Dutch Elm Disease Pathogen *Ophiostoma novo-ulmi*.** *Journal of Fungi*, 12(2), 137. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jof12020137>

Vance, M., Hawkins, B., Richardson, J., & von Aderkas, P. (2026). **Local Adaptation for Seasonal Cold Tolerance in a High-Elevation Conifer Species, Subalpine Larch (*Larix lyallii* Parl.)** *Evolutionary Applications*, 19(2). <https://doi.org/10.1111/eva.70201>

Tran, L.T., Mottiar, Y., Irwin, T., Efe, M., Robbins, S., Hawkins, B.J., Mansfield, S.D., & Ehltling, J. (2026). **A nitrate transporter 1/peptide transporter family gene impacts nitrogen homeostasis and phenylpropanoid production in hybrid poplar.** *Journal of Experimental Botany*, 77(5), 1493-1493. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jxb/erag034>