

2008 Award Winner



Jim Rodney Memorial Volunteer of the Year - Candace Parsons, RPF

Candace's first taste of forestry was when she was co-opted into being a leader of a Junior Forest Wardens group – an outdoors club, similar to Guides and Scouts, that teaches children about the basics of forestry. A UBC forestry student (John McClarnon, RPF) provided the forestry knowledge and Candace learned alongside her wards. She then decided to pursue a forestry degree from UBC herself.

Fast forward a few years and Candace is now the director of student services for UBC's faculty of forestry and is still working with students. Candace's passions for helping young people and for forestry are apparent in the nickname her students have given her – "our Forestry Mom."

Candace's caring ways extend beyond her students to the Canadian Institute of Forestry. Candace is the chair of the Vancouver Section, a group she helped to revitalize from several years of inactivity. She is instrumental in organizing monthly dinner meetings and other events, and brings in speakers who are of interest to veteran members and students alike. She encourages the veterans to mix with the students (and to buy them dinner!) in order to spread forestry knowledge and share the passion for good forest stewardship. Candace joined the CIF as a student member and has enjoyed the 30 years of her membership. Candace's volunteer efforts have also included several ABCFP annual conference host committees (with the late Jim Rodney as chair) plus serving a two-year term on the governing council.