

THE IRISH FORESTER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF IRISH FORESTERS

Produced by the Society of Irish Foresters, The Enterprise Centre, Ballintogher, Co. Sligo. Tel: 071 64434, Fax: 071 34904 email: sif@eircom.net
Editors; Patrick Purser, Tony Mannion

News from the Office

It has been another busy period for the Sligo office, the Symposium, the AGM, three field days (with an average attendance of 70) and the South African tour all having passed since the last edition of *The Irish Forester*.

Recent activities of the Technical Director include:

- Field Day - Dundrum, Co Tipperary. 22/03/02
- Council Meeting, Dublin 23/03/02
- IFIC Meeting - Review of Forest Strategy 28/03/02
- Symposium and AGM - 12/04/02
- Meeting with Institute of Chartered Foresters 15/04/02
- IFCI Meeting of FSC Steering group 24/04/02
- Field Day, Balcas, Enniskillen. 26/04/02
- COFORD Conference on Forest Industry Innovations
- IFIC Council Meeting 08/05/02
- Field Day, East Galway 10/05/02
- Study Tour to S. Africa 18-31/05/02

The Technical Director, Tony Mannion, has recently reviewed the Draft Forest Service Guidelines on the Use of Pesticides and the Northern Ireland Forest Service Revision of Public Consultation Arrangements. He has also made recent submissions to the Forest Service on Core Funding Support for the Society in 2002 and to Dr. Richard Webb, the FSC Auditor re. the SGS Audit of Coillte's Forest Management Practices.

All members have been sent statements of account or receipts where appropriate concerning the status of their membership subscriptions. Most members are fully paid up and many have now changed their method of payment to Direct Debit. **Any member still in arrears should settle their account immediately** and all members are encouraged to pay by Direct Debit. Any enquiries should be directed to Paula Lahiff in the Sligo office.

The symposium on 'Farm Forestry' held on April 12th in the Stand Hotel, the Curragh, Co. Kildare was a success both in terms of the quality of the presentations and the subsequent discussions. The topic also proved to be of good media interest also. There were written articles with photographs in both the Farmers Journal and the Farming Independent. Radio coverage in the form of interviews was also generated with features which members may have heard on Ag Review (RTE), East Coast FM, Waterford Local Radio and Clare FM. The Membership Services Management Board would welcome suggestions from members concerning a topic and format for next years event. Members can contact John McLoughlin who is the convenor of the Meetings Management Board.

The Society has recently commissioned the development of its own web site. This project is being overseen by the Sligo

secretariat and the Public Relations Management Board with the development being carried out by a private contractor. Further details of this will be provided in the next edition of the Irish Forester.



SIF President Trevor Wilson, addresses delegates at the annual Symposium held in April.

Forest Service NI Launch New Forest Website

The Northern Ireland Forest Service has launched its own website which contains information on recreational, educational and operational forestry. The web site was designed by their in-house web development team and can be accessed at www.forestserviceni.gov.uk.

On the site, users will find information on the Woodland Grant Scheme and application forms that can be downloaded. Caravan owners may also download Permit Applications for the Touring in the Trees caravan sites. Information on charges, where applicable, are displayed on the relevant Forest Park site.

It is hoped that both domestic and international holiday makers will access the site which provides comprehensive information on activities and location, including the ability to download maps. The site will also be of benefit to users seeking more information on forestry practices and the history of some of Northern Ireland's forests. The website also gives details on all Forest Service NI events, activities and provides a schools programme.

Society of Irish Foresters Graduate Directory

The last five years have seen great development in forest education capacity in Ireland with the initiation of the National

Diploma in Science in Forestry at Waterford Institute of Technology and the National Diploma in Technology in Forest Management at Galway/Mayo Institute of Technology. These courses, in addition to the existing Certificate in Forestry at Teagasc, Ballyhaise and the forestry degree and post-graduate degree programmes at UCD, facilitate a broad range of professional competency for student foresters.

There has never been a better time in Ireland for industry to access the abilities of talented forestry graduates. Also, forestry students have long questioned the relevance of the Society to their particular needs. In light of this, the Education Committee proposed the idea of a graduate directory as a practical service to student members and industry. As such, entry in the directory will be available to student members only.

The objectives of the graduate directory are to provide a service to student members to aid their professional career development and to provide a resource to the Irish forest industry by collating in one directory potential employees' technical competence, practical experience and academic qualifications. It is anticipated that the directory will be published in booklet form on an annual basis around October of each year and posted to all Society members. The directory will cover the current year's graduates only. The collation of all Society members and their graduation dates (rounded up to the nearest decade in some cases) may be considered in future directories. For further information contact: Tom Kent, Course Leader - Forestry Dept., Waterford Institute of Technology, Tel: 051 302646, E-mail: tkent@wit.ie.



Speakers at the Annual Symposium (left to right) Hugh Scanlan, Donal Magner, John Connolly, Donal Whelan, Trevor Wilson (SIF President), Pat Lehane, Jim Reidy and Dr. Brendan Kearney.

International Seminar on Afforestation in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management

The Forest Service are hosting a major international seminar on Afforestation in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Ennis, Co. Clare from September 15th to 19th later this year.

The seminar is being organised in conjunction with the joint FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation), ECE (Economic Commission for Europe) and ILO (International Labour

Organisation) committee on Forest Technology, Management & Training.

Afforestation within the context of SFM extends beyond the simple planting of trees to encapsulate the planting of the right trees in the right places. Given the nature of afforestation as a major change in land use, the activity impacts greatly on the site and its surroundings. It also has wider implications in relation to, for example, the protection of river catchments, landscape management and the provision of an adequate regional infrastructure. The objective of the international seminar is to discuss best practice which ensures that afforestation proceeds in accordance with SFM.

The seminar will specifically address three themes:

- National and Regional Strategic Planning
- Local and Site Planning
- Operational Aspects

The programme is aimed at all those in the international field with an interest in the successful establishment of forests within the context of SFM. These will include professionals from the forestry and environmental sectors, land use specialists, national, regional and local government officials, policy makers and legislators, scientists and researchers, environmental NGO's and the wider stakeholder community. Anyone interested in attending this seminar should contact Kevin Collins in the Forest Service at 01 6199383 or email kevin.collins@marine.irlgov.ie .

Changes in Coillte

The following changes in the Coillte organisational structure came into effect on 1st March 2002.

Executive Committee	
Martin Lowery	Chief Executive
Dermot O'Brien	Executive Director
John O'Dwyer	Executive Director
Directors	
Tim Crowley	Forestry - Coillte Forests
Gerard Murphy	Timber Harvesting, Marketing & Sales
Jim Dillon	Forest Establishment
George McCarthy	Planning, Research & Environment
Brendan Fitzsimons	Operations - Coillte Enterprise
Paul Clinch	Information
Eamon Magee	Human Resources
Gerry Brichfield	Business Development
Ivan Schuster	Finance
Gerry Egan	Company Secretary & Corporate Affairs
Vacant	Subsidiaries & Associated (OSB, Coillte Consult, IFUT)

In addition, the outgoing Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, Frank Fahey TD, made the following appointments to the Board of Coillte on Thursday June 6th:

Mr. Brendan McKenna (Chairperson)

Mr. McKenna recently retired as CEO of Abbot Ireland Ltd. (Sligo), he has a background in mechanical engineering, industrial psychology and strategic management.

Ms. Sinead Slevin (Board Member)

Ms. Slevin is a chartered accountant and joint Chief Executive of Integral Finance Technology (IFT) Ltd.

Mr. Martin Lowery (Board Member)

Mr. Lowery is an engineer by profession and the current Chief Executive of Coillte.

Mr. Pat Kearney (Board Member)

Mr. Kearney is a Coillte employee based in Scariff, Co. Clare.

Launch of the Forestry and Timber Association in Northern Ireland

The Forestry and Timber Association was launched in Northern Ireland at Shanescastle Co. Antrim on the 22nd May 2002. It is the new UK representative forestry body, combining the Ulster Timber Growers Organisation with the Timber Growers Association, and the Association of Professional Foresters.

With 10 regions and over 2,500 members UK wide the Forestry and Timber Association aims to be an effective voice for UK forestry, working along side the Institute of Chartered Foresters. Political and technical representation, information and other benefits are delivered through a regional and national structure, including a new branch in Northern Ireland.

The chairman of the association is Robert Scott of Baronscourt woodlands, Chris Inglis is the Executive Director and is based in Scotland. The director of the Northern Ireland region is James King of Rademon Estate, Co. Down. Membership in Northern Ireland is based on the Ulster Timber Growers Organisation and is open to anyone engaged or interested in forestry, woodlands or trees, whether for commercial, amenity or other reasons. It is hoped that the Forestry and Timber Association will hold two open days each year in members woods.

The association is currently lobbying for changes in the UK planting grant system at the mid-term review due next year. These changes should promote environmental / deciduous woodland while reserving conifer plantations to a minimum of 3 hectares, stocked with market led species. The Forestry and Timber Association will carry out an inventory of their members woodlands and will present this to the Forest Service (NI) to assist in strategic planning. It is understood that close co-operation with the Irish Timber Growers Association will be continued and further meetings are proposed shortly. The Society has also been invited to attend meetings.

WANTED - Volunteers for new hardwood species improvement groups

As the broadleaf element of the Irish afforestation programme expands, the need to improve quality becomes paramount. This need combined with the growth in interest in broadleaves, which is likely to grow even further with the recent launch of the new Native Woodlands scheme requires that broadleaf quality should now receive even greater attention. Over the past ten years, a similar move has taken place in Britain with the establishment of the British Hardwoods Improvement Programme (BHIP) where representatives from various species interest groups have worked together to improve the quality and productivity of their broadleaved woodland. More recently (since 1997) BHIP has established an Irish link and has incorporated Ireland into its activities and also into its name.

BIHIP is a voluntary association of landowners, research workers and professional foresters, who have an interest and determination to improve the quality and productivity of six broadleaf species with the potential to produce commercial timber, viz., ash, birch, cherry, oak, sweet chestnut and walnut. While sweet chestnut and walnut may not have wide appeal currently, the other four species are very important in Irish broadleaf forestry. Separate programmes are in progress for each of the six species. These groups are expecting to increase the recoverable volume through selection and breeding programmes.

In order to further strengthen the Irish connection we are now inviting Irish participants who have a specific species interest to contact COFORD with a view to establishing species-specific groups for the four main species in Ireland. These species groups would cooperate with the primary species group in Britain and in so doing will strengthen the Irish contribution to BIHIP. Participation in a group may require attending occasional meetings of the species group in the UK. However with greater Irish participation, it will be possible to rotate these meetings between Britain and Ireland. Interested individuals and organisations should contact John Fennessy in COFORD at the following email address: john.fennessy@coford.ie.



Society Members who attended the March Field Day to Dundrum Sawmills

COFORD Workshop - Developing effective market-led grower co-operatives

COFORD is funding a desk study (MarCo) to develop market-led grower co-operatives. The Western Forestry Co-op is conducting this study with Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, University of Ulster and Dr Philip Blackstock.

The objective of this desk study is to identify the most suitable and cost effective support structures for private forestry in Ireland, with a particular emphasis on providing market-led co-operative support that will ensure that quality farm-grown timber can be produced, brought to, and compete in, the market place.

It is important that the most effective co-operative structure is identified and that the financial implications of providing this form of support are considered.

A stakeholder workshop is being held to present progress to date and to gather comments, suggestions and concerns from all parties.

Invitations to attend the workshop have been circulated to key stakeholders. If you would like to attend please contact Sarah Wall at the Forestry Department, GMIT at 091 742394.

Wood For Energy 2002

This conference is being jointly organised by COFORD and the Renewable Energy Information Office of Sustainable Energy Ireland. It is being held at the Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim from July 18-19, 2002. The following is a provisional list of papers to be presented and venues to be visited:

July 18th:

- The potential for wood energy in Ireland
- Market development for wood pellets in Europe
- Forest Residues as a source of wood fuels
- Specialised equipment for bundling bioenergy from forest residues
- Technology for wood fuel chip production in Ireland
- Plant visits to Sawmill and Panelboard mill to view the use of wood biomass for energy purposes

July 19th:

- Accelerating the use of wood residues as a source of fuel in Ireland
- Danish experiences in the use of wood energy and CHP
- Large-scale production of heat from wood residues in the wood processing industry
- Wood fuel heating applications in France
- How do I build a plant for manufacturing wood pellets?
- Field visit to whole tree chipping operation in a thinning operation

The conference will be preceded by a training course on July 17th organised by the Renewable Energy Information Office. Numbers on this course will be limited. Interested parties should contact biomass@reio.ie to register. The course will be built around the Wood Fuels Basic Information Pack by the Finnish bioenergy network BENET.

Registration forms will be posted on the COFORD and Irish Energy Centre websites shortly. They will also be posted out to COFORD's postal circulation list. Enquiries should be directed to Mr Joe O'Carroll, Operations Manager, COFORD, Agriculture Building, Belfield, Dublin 4. Phone (01) 7167700 or email admin@coford.ie



Peter Alley and Michael Sweeney of Forestry Services Ltd. lead the discussion on the early silvicultural treatment of ash at the March Field day to Dundrum, Co. Tipperary.

New Members

The SIF would like to welcome the following new members:

Technical	Associate	Student
Breandán O'Laoithe	Mark Newenham	Geraldine O'Sullivan
Bernard Carey		Mark O'Loughlin
Bernard Kiernan		Ian Browne
Robin Tottenham		
Oisin Meagher		
Brendan Lally		
Shane McCarrick		

On the Move

The Society of Irish Foresters would like to congratulate the following people on their recent appointments:

John Fennessy has been appointed as Research Programme Manager in COFORD - Tree Improvement. John, who is a past president of the Society, will be responsible for compiling the National Catalogue of Seed Stands and will continue to represent Ireland at EUFORGEN meetings. He will also run the non-wood products R&D programme.

Lauren MacLennan has been appointed as Technology Transfer Co-Ordinator with COFORD.

Recent Publications

Coillte Annual Report and Accounts, 2001. Available from Coillte, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2.