**National Forestry Conference 2022**

***Non-wood forestry: Who benefits? Who pays?***

**9.15am *on* Tuesday, 11 October 2022**

**Johnstown House Hotel, Enfield**

This year's national forestry conference will address non-wood aspects of forestry including carbon sequestration, recreation, biodiversity and water services. A move towards non-wood forestry began in the 1970s. This has been a major successasapprox. 29 million visits are made each year to Ireland’sforests.

The recent two surveys on public attitudes to forestry show that people place a high value on job creation, timber production and carbon storage, but there was also a strong emphasis on recreation, biodiversity and landscape aesthetics.

The forestry sector acknowledged the challenges of non-wood forestry - both its costs and benefits. Advocates of the open forest policy now believe that it is time for an open debate on all aspects of non-wood forestry, including:

* Carbon sequestration – climate change mitigation
* Biodiversity including planting and maintenance of non-productive native tree species
* Landscape planning – set back, unplanted ground
* The role of forests in water quality and flood control.
* Health and wellbeing – recreation forestry.
* Conversion of land to 'climate friendly' use or non-use – rewilding, rewetting, etc.

**Conference Speakers**

The speakers and topics at the 2022 National Forestry Conference on **11 October** in **Johnstown House Hotel, Enfield**, include;

* **Senator Pippa Hackett**, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine will provide the keynote address on the role of non-wood forestry in the new forestry programme.
* **Colm Hayes**, Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on balancing the multipurpose benefits of forestry
* **Prof. Cathal O’Donoghue**, Established Chair of Social and Public Policy, University College Galway will present a paper on carbon based forestry: acknowledging forest owners for their contribution to net zero
* **Olive Leavy,** Secretary, Irish Forest Owners will speak on the role of forest owners in delivering non-wood benefits
* **Dr. Tom Nisbet**, **Head Physical Environment Research Group, British Forestry Commission** will address forestry and water services including protecting water quality, shade provision and flood regulation.
* **Donal Whelan**, Technical Director, Irish Timber Growers Association will speak on the topic ofEcosystem services: balancing benefits with payments and the role of certification
* **Professor Jane Stout**, Vice President for Biodiversity and Climate Action, Trinity College Dublin will present a paper on realising the value of forestry through natural capital accounting
* **Eamonn Kenny**, Director of Forest Operations, Coillte will discuss health and wellbeing; access and the company's open forest policy.
* Marina Conway, CEO Western Forestry Co-operative and Matt Dempsey, Chairperson, Irish Agricultural Trust, *Irish Farmers Journal* will chair the two conference sessions.

**Registration: 8.30am – 9.15am**

The registration fee of €80 includes morning and interval refreshments, lunch and a conference booklet.

**Payment by bank transfer as follows:**

**Account Name:** Society of Irish Foresters

**Bank Name/Address:** Ulster Bank, 130 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2

**BIC:** ULSB IE 2D

**Account Number:** 08772046

**Sort Code:** 98-50-20

**IBAN:** IE25 ULSB 9850 2008 7720 46

**Payment by cheque** (made payable toSociety of Irish Foresters) also accepted.

Please send to *Technical Director, Society of Irish Foresters, Glenealy, Co. Wicklow.*

Further information on the conference available from [info@soif.ie](mailto:info@soif.ie)

***The National Forestry Conference 2022 is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine***