

THE Irish Forester

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF IRISH FORESTERS

SUMMER 2012

Development of a national Code of Practice for forest valuation

Henry Phillips

The premium payments on earlier plantations are now beginning to run out and some owners may look to dispose of their forest asset. However, they have no benchmark against which to value their forests. Unlike land or houses, there is scant information available to inform them of market values or recent sale prices.

In addition, the age profile of many farmers who have afforested part of their land holding is relatively old and the expectation is that, increasingly within the next decade, many will dispose of their forest asset to generate a once-off lump sum benefit. With almost 11% of the country under forests, it is increasingly likely that forest plantations will need to be valued not



just for sale but also for probate and as security for loans etc.

To maintain confidence in private afforestation it is vital that forest owners receive fair compensation when they chose to sell their forest asset. If owners are paid less than fair value for their plantations, it will not be long before people's perception of forestry is that it is a poor investment which devalues over time.

Against this background it is important that there is a standard approach to forest valuation. Such an approach will instil confidence in investors and sellers alike and will ultimately increase the liquidity of forest plantation investments. Furthermore, such a standard

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Society President John Mc Loughlin presented the 2012 Augustine Henry medal to David Nolan, Waterford Institute of Technology at the Society's field day at Jenkinstown Wood, Co. Kilkenny on 24th February. The other prize winner, Brian Shaw, UCD is currently studying in Finland and Austria and will receive his medal in August. These annual awards are presented to forestry students who gained the highest marks in their final year examinations.

Message from the President



The gradual shift from State to private afforestation since the late 1980s is becoming more apparent as the years roll by. Annual timber supply from private forests has increased from 100,000m³ to 400,000m³ over the past decade.

The availability of better quality land has resulted in a dramatic increase in broadleaf planting which has now reached 37%. Good forestry practice will provide environmental, economic and social benefits and time will tell if the decision to dramatically increase broadleaf planting was wise.

Today most forests are established by farmers and while they are conscious of the multipurpose benefits of forestry, they also seek a return on their investment. The best place to judge the financial wisdom of species selection is the market place, either the timber or forest market.

The timber market is easy to assess – all the owner needs to do is offer a lot for sale. So far, despite the recession, it has been a strong market especially for the first Sitka spruce thinnings of the 'new' forests that have come on the market over the past decade. They are finding a ready market and securing excellent prices.

Less is known about the market value of forests. As Henry Phillips points out, unlike land and house sales, there is no standard forest valuation. In the absence of such information, the Society fully supports the development of a National Code of Practice to ensure that there is a standard approach to forest valuation. It is vital that there is confidence in forestry among the farming community, investors, sellers and particularly the State which has supported forestry over the years.

JOHN Mc LOUGHLIN – President

All Ireland squirrel survey 2012

Dr. Michael Carey



The 2007 all Ireland squirrel survey showed a dramatic increase in the spread of grey squirrels over the previous 20 years. The grey squirrel was present in 26 of the 32 counties. A question mark arose over whether it had crossed the river Shannon or entered Co Cork.

Grey squirrels represent a major threat to the survival of the native red squirrel and to broadleaf trees due to bark stripping. With increased planting over the past two decades, woodland owners need to be vigilant to this threat which can destroy vigorous healthy trees. Sycamore, oak, beech and birch are prime targets.

Recently there have been reports of two cases of the pox virus in Co Wicklow and another in Co. Antrim. The disease is carried by the greys and is lethal to the reds.



A NEW PROJECT AT NUI GALWAY WILL INVESTIGATE THE DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY OF GREY SQUIRRELS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

A new project at NUI Galway, funded by the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, is focused on investigating the distribution and ecology of grey squirrels in relation to the west of Ireland /Shannon barrier and on quantifying the amount of bark stripping being carried out by grey squirrels. The project includes an all Ireland survey of both squirrel species and of the incidence bark stripping.

Members are urged to report sightings – or non sightings – of grey and red squirrels and bark stripping on: www.woodlandmammals.com. Hard copies of the survey forms are available from Ms Margaret Flaherty, 091 492903 and 087 1867664 at the Mammal Ecology Group, Martin Ryan Institute, NUI Galway.

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could be included as a module in third level programmes for both auctioneers and foresters, as well as to continued professional development programmes organised by the Irish Chartered Institute of Surveyors (ICIS) and the Society of Irish Foresters (SIF).

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THERE IS A STANDARD APPROACH TO FOREST VALUATION

PROPOSAL

The overall objective is to develop a National Code of Practice for the valuation of forests

through a participative and inclusive process. It would provide guidance on the inputs to the valuation, in particular those inputs which significantly impact on the forest valuation such as:

- *Inventory Data*
- *Growth models*
- *Discount rate and risks*
- *Timber prices*
- *Treatment of land and reforestation charges*
- *Residual values (roads)*
- *Costs*
- *Management regime*

By adopting a National Code of Practice we will create a common approach to the valuation of forests, which can only be of benefit to the increasing number of private forest owners. The proposal is still at the development stage but the small team includes

representatives from the main forest companies (technical and accountancy), ICIS and myself.

If the project is to be a success, not only in terms of developing a National Code of Practice but also in its adoption as part of best practice, then it is important that there is some input from SIF. This could take the form of hosting a draft standard on its website for comment, or the joint hosting of one of the planned three workshops to discuss the draft National Code of Practice or the inclusion of the draft in its newsletter or any combination of these.

The intention is to submit a project proposal to the Forest Service for funding and if successful, to have a draft National Code of Practice prepared by the end of August and adopted by the end of October 2012.

Honorary membership conferred on Sean Campbell and Tomás de Grúinéal



Tomás de Grúinéal, awarded honorary membership of the Society of Irish Foresters

Honorary membership of the Society of Irish Foresters was conferred on Sean Campbell and Tomás de Grúinéal earlier this year by John Mc Loughlin, President of the Society. Honorary membership is awarded in recognition of distinguished service to the advancement of forestry and the objectives of the Society of Irish Foresters.

Both recipients hail from Co. Mayo and have enjoyed long and distinguished careers in

forestry. Sean Campbell, a UCD graduate in 1948, began his working life as a land project officer at Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford where he worked on the Marshall Plan before spending four years with the then Forestry Division as a forester in Rathnew, Killakee, Aughrim and Glenamoy Forests

In 1952, Sean took the brave step of leaving the Civil Service and taking the helm at Irish Forest Products (IFP). From 1979 to 1990 he remained a key player with IFP as part of Smurfit Natural Resources and its sawmills in Aughrim, Fermoy and Mountrath. He also spent periods working in both Venezuela and Colombia.

When he left Smurfit Natural Resources he began another career as a private forestry consultant working on several major projects including The O’Rahilly Plantations in Co. Roscommon and Co. Leitrim.

Tomás de Grúinéal studied forestry at Avondale Forestry School from 1942 to 1945. The eldest of seven, he worked in the Mayo area to support his siblings after the early tragic deaths of his parents. The then Director of Forestry, Dr ML Anderson, who had himself

suffered a similar tragedy at a young age, was sympathetic to Tomás’s plight and facilitated his career in the family locality.

Here he began the pioneering work of establishing forests in Ross, Maam and Cloosh. Later he was promoted to the inspectorate working in Co. Mayo and ultimately as Divisional Inspector in Galway. He retired in 1988, the year before Coillte was established, and continues to take a keen interest in Society matters and forestry in general.



John Mc Loughlin, President of the Society of Irish Foresters, presents honorary membership to Sean Campbell.

DIVERSITY THE THEME IN ANTRIM FIELD DAY

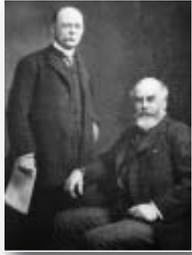
On Friday, 11th May, Society members joined with staff of the Northern Ireland Forest Service for our Ulster field day which visited Shane’s Castle Estate, Co. Antrim and the nearby Antrim Castle Gardens where extensive garden restoration work is in progress. Members were shown woodland improvement operations on an ASSI site on the shores of Lough Neagh; the management of high quality stands of broadleaves and the Nursery Garden Arboretum which has been developed by Lord O’Neill over the years. Our sincere thanks goes to John and Eileen McCurdy for organising this most interesting and varied trip.



A carpet of bluebells and wild garlic under broadleaved wood, Shane’s Castle, Antrim with (inset) Lord O’Neill (centre) and Society members Tim Hynes and John McCurdy.

"A forest is the finest thing in the world: it is the expression of nature in the highest form: it is so full of beauty and of variety." - Augustine Henry

**SPECIAL OFFER FOR
SIF MEMBERS**



Augustine Henry and Henry John Elwes

Only a few copies of the original *The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland* by Elwes and Henry are now available worldwide. A special edition, comprising seven volumes and an index, will be published in November to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Society of Irish Foresters. It will be available to our readers in the following two hardback options in the original large format of 315 x 250mm:

- linen covered board – €350 + €35 P&P for each eight-volume set to an Irish address, €55 to Britain;
- half leather bound – €1,250 + €35 P&P for each eight-volume set to an Irish address, €55 to Britain.

The names of patrons who support this publication will be included alongside the original patrons. The half leather bound edition will be numbered.

The offer is open until 27 July 2012. After this date the half leather bound edition will no longer be available. The linen covered board edition will be available for the retail price of €500 plus P&P.

A limited facsimile edition

The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland

Henry John Elwes and Augustine Henry



Further information: Society of Irish Foresters

Tel: 00 353 86 2582240

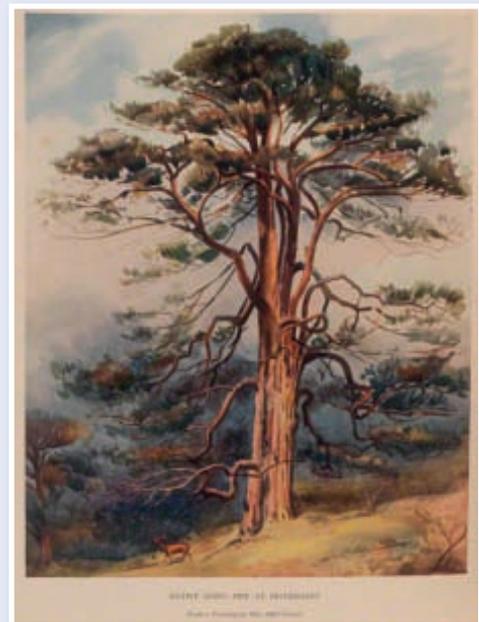
Email: sif@eircom.net

Cheques should be made payable to "The Society of Irish Foresters" and forwarded to Society of Irish Foresters, Glenealy, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland

Our sincere thanks to members who have already purchased sets of the special edition of *The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland*. We have received orders, not only from our Irish members, but also from tree enthusiasts around the world including USA, Britain, Belgium and France. The special edition, comprising seven volumes and an index, will be published in November 2012 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Society of Irish Foresters. It will be available to members in the following two hardback options in the original large format of 315 x 250mm priced €350 for linen covered board edition and €1,250 for leather bound (plus €35 P&P for each eight-volume set to an Irish address and €55 to Britain).

The names of patrons who support this publication will be included alongside the original patrons. The half leather bound edition will be numbered. The total set comprises 2,100 text pages, 400 black and white colour plates, seven colour title pages and five colour frontispieces.



Above: Native Scots Pine at Invergarry from 'The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland'.

Left: Norway spruce in Glensheskin, Kilworth Forest, 1903 from 'The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland'. This property was planted in the 1830s.

FIELD DAY



Contributors at the Jenkinstown Wood field day: Michael Power, Coillte; Pat O'Sullivan, Technical Director, SIF; Liz Griffith, Coillte; John Mc Loughlin, President SIF; Joe McConville, AAIB

Dangerous trees awareness day

The Society kicked off its field-day season with a visit to Jenkinstown Wood, Co. Kilkenny. The Dangerous Trees Awareness Day was organised by the Society in association with Coillte and the Arboricultural Association Irish Branch (AAIB). As well as the demonstration, there were presentations on the identification of dangerous trees and their treatment, and the responsibilities of landowners under current Civil and Statute law.



A section of the large attendance at the Jenkinstown Wood field day.



Society Innovation Award to Imperative Energy

Joe O'Carroll Managing Director Imperative Energy Ltd (right) accepts the Society of Irish Foresters' 2012 Innovation Award from President John Mc Loughlin. Imperative Energy Ltd, owned by Joe O'Carroll and Green Belt Ltd, Ireland's largest private forestry company, is a leading player in the bio-energy sector in the UK and Ireland. Previous winners of the Society's Innovation Award include Treemetrics Ltd the Cork based global forestry technology company.

Past Presidents honoured

To mark its 70th anniversary, the Society of Irish Foresters awarded specially commissioned medals to its past presidents. The brainchild of past president Kevin Hutchinson, these awards were presented during events held earlier this year in Dublin and Lurgan.



Past presidents of the Society of Irish Foresters at the medal presentation by John Mc Loughlin, President (centre, front row). Back row: Ted Farrell, Eoin O'Driscoll who represented his late father John, Michael Bulfin, Fergal Mulloy, Gerhardt Gallagher and Michael O'Brien. Front row: Kevin Hutchinson, Padraic Joyce, John Mc Loughlin, Tony Mannion and Richard Clear who represented his late father Tom.



John Mc Loughlin presents the President's medal to Michael McNamara with his wife Marie and Donal Magner, Technical Councillor. Michael was President of the Society on two occasions.



John Mc Loughlin presents the President's medal to Cecil Kilpatrick.



At the President's medal presentation in Lurgan were (back row) Bill Wright, John Prior, John Phillips, (front row) Bill Jack, Ken Ellis and Trevor Wilson.

Welcome to our new members

New members are the lifeblood of every organisation, so we actively encourage foresters, forest enthusiasts and especially students to join the Society. We are delighted to welcome the following new members to the Society of Irish Foresters:

Technical: Mark Dunworth, Ian Fitzpatrick, Edward McTernan, Alec Mooney, John Moore, Patrick Moore, Momme Reibisch, James Reynolds and Aoife Smith.

Associate: Gus Barry and Sandra Murphy.

Student: Alistair Dunnett, Colm Gilheaney.

We wish you every success as Society members and hope you enjoy our wide range of activities and publications.

Minister launches Wood for All Seasons seminar



Shane McEntee (second from left), Minister of State with responsibility for forestry with Dr. Eugene Hendrick, Paul Harvey, Chairman Wood Marketing Federation (WMF) and Donal Magner, Secretary WMF at the Wood for All Seasons seminar in Farmleigh House on 11th May. Minister McEntee who launched the seminar, praised the Irish forestry and forest products sector for continuing to increase timber exports in a hugely competitive market.

Augustine Henry Memorial at Avondale

We thank all those who helped us to fill in the names of the people who attended the launch of the Augustine Henry Memorial at Avondale in September 1951. All but one of them have now been identified. Special thanks to Michael O'Donovan, Jack Durand, Niall O'Carroll, Neil Murray, Michael McNamara, Michael Carey, Richard Clear and Dick Griffin. The following people have been identified (left to right): O.V. Mooney (who served as Society President on two occasions); Sal Cahill, a member of the Administrative Staff in HQ and served as Associate Councillor; Tom Clear, Professor of Forestry UCD; Molly Devane, Matron at Avondale Forestry School; this person not identified; Tim McEvoy, President of the Society of Irish Foresters; Michael Dooley, Forester-in-Charge at Avondale Forest; Tom O'Carroll, Superintendent at Avondale Forestry School; Dr. Tom Walsh, Curator of the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin; W.F. Nally, Secretary at the Department of Lands; H.M. Fitzpatrick; Julia O'Beirne, widow of Michael O'Beirne; Alice 'Elsie' Henry, widow of Dr. Augustine Henry.



Society Events in 2012

22 June
Midlands Field Day
Co. Westmeath

28 September
Munster Field Day
Co. Limerick

9-13 October
Annual Study Tour
Estonia

8 November
Annual Sean Mac Bride
Forestry Lecture
UCD

EDITORIAL:

Donal Magner,
Pat O'Sullivan
John Mc Loughlin
Henry Phillips
Dr. Michael Carey.

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