

Forestry and Wood Update….October 2003 - Volume 3 Number 10

## CONTENTS

[COFORD launches new book: *A Guide to Forest Tree Species Selection and Silviculture in Ireland* 1](#_Toc53544225)

[COFORD Workshop: Preparation and Sale of Hardwoods 2](#_Toc53544226)

[CREATE 2003 3](#_Toc53544227)

[National Survey of Native Woodlands 3](#_Toc53544228)

[Carbon Corner 4](#_Toc53544229)

[Third Annual General Meeting of British and Irish Hardwood Improvement Programme 5](#_Toc53544230)

[Note on the Forest of Dean 6](#_Toc53544231)

[Griffner Coillte launch new manufacturing facility for modular timber buildings in Mullingar 6](#_Toc53544232)

[Fourth EUFORGEN Conifers Network Meeting 7](#_Toc53544233)

[Public private partnership in forestry positioning for success 7](#_Toc53544234)

[Wood Protection 2004 8](#_Toc53544235)

[SMALLWOOD 2004: Creating solutions for using small trees 8](#_Toc53544236)

[St Andrews Prize 9](#_Toc53544237)

[IUFRO Extension Working Party Meeting 9](#_Toc53544238)

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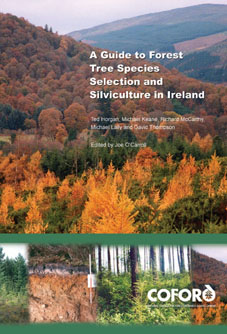
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# COFORD launches new book: *A Guide to Forest Tree Species Selection and Silviculture in Ireland*

Forests now cover 9% of the land area of Ireland, and this is set to rise, at a rate of 20,000 hectares per annum, to 17% by 2030. This afforestation activity will be most effective if trees are planted on the most appropriate sites. On 6 October, the Minister for State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Mr John Browne, T.D., launched a new book entitled *A Guide to Forest Tree Species Selection and Silviculture.* Speaking at the launch in his native county, Minister Browne welcomed the production of the new book by COFORD and stated: “Ireland’s climatic conditions are the most suitable in Europe for the growth of a wide range of tree species. However, the need to diversify tree species must be balanced with the need to produce timber of high quality, necessary for sustaining a vibrant processing sector and for yielding a positive financial return to the farmer or land owner.”



After acknowledging that his own Department’s Forest Service had introduced guidelines to ensure that forest operations were at all times in keeping with best environmental practice, he continued: “It is most fitting that this book, which outlines silvicultural practice for a wide range of tree species, should be launched at the JFK Arboretum. Forty years ago this area on the southern slopes of Slieve Coillte and close to Dunganstown, the ancestral home of the Kennedy family, was selected to host a collection of thousands of woody species, from conifers to flowering shrubs. It is an excellent tourist attraction for this part of Wexford and I am delighted that the research findings from the forest plots have been used extensively in this book.”

The five authors, who have over 130 years of forestry experience between them, are Ted Horgan, Michael Keane, Richard McCarthy, Michael Lally and David Thompson. All currently work for Coillte. This book, edited by Joe O’Carroll, Operations Manager of COFORD, is the first comprehensive guide to species selection in an Irish context since Mark Anderson’s *Selection of Tree Species* published over fifty years ago.

Mr David Nevins, chairman of COFORD, stated: “This publication will be of immense value, particularly to the thousands of new forest owners in Ireland, and will contribute to the achievement of the afforestation target of a further 600,000 ha between now and 2030 and will undoubtedly add to greater species diversification. In addition, the guidelines will inform species selection on the 6-8,000 ha of reforestation undertaken in Ireland every year.”

Paying tribute to the work of the authors and the production team, COFORD’s Director, Dr Eugene Hendrick said: “The publication of this book is most timely given the ever-increasing desire to increase species diversification in both new and existing forest areas. One of the keys to achieving a balance between economic, environmental and social objectives is the planting of the right tree in the right place. Now, more than ever, species selection can help to achieve this objective.”

Copies of the book are available from COFORD at a cost of €30 plus packaging and postage. Contact [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie) to place your order, or submit your order via the COFORD website [www.coford.ie/bookshop/default.html](http://www.coford.ie/bookshop/default.html)

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# COFORD Workshop: Preparation and Sale of Hardwoods

The recent series of COFORD seminars on growing and managing broadleaves identified a major shortcoming in the area of quantification of supply of hardwood material. For the grower there was no simple method for presenting hardwood material for sale on a national basis. Similarly, the user of hardwood logs, the saw miller, was unable to access current hardwood material available.

In response, COFORD has undertaken to help develop a system where growers with hardwoods for sale could list available material in a periodically published sales catalogue, which would be circulated to all hardwood processors. However, buyers and sellers need to standardise the descriptors so that all speak the same language. A number of practical workshops on the quantification and categorisation of standing hardwoods and the felling and cross cutting of felled material in preparation for sale are being held. The first of these one-day workshops took place in the Dundrum area on 16 September. The main speaker was Gavin Munro, a forester who has specialised in purchase, processing and sale of hardwoods since 1975 and has been a member of the Scottish Hardwood Marketing Development Group. Other speakers were Seamus Heaney, Coillte Wood Products, Dundrum, and Pat Buckley, Hardwoods Procurement Manager, Coillte.

Due to the great interest shown, the workshop will be repeated **Tuesday 18 November** at a suitable site where hardwoods are being harvested (details to be confirmed). It is advisable for those interested in attending to book immediately by contacting COFORD (tel: 01-7167700, email: [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie)) as participants will be accommodated on a first come, first served basis. The programme will be one full day and will include lunch and course material.

The day will commence with a short indoor session in which Gavin Munro will introduce the subject and discuss the various aspects of the hardwoods trade under the following headings:

* Preparation and presentation of hardwood wood lots
* Valuing and grading of hardwoods

This will be followed by a hands-on session in the forest where all aspects of standing and felled material will be comprehensively dealt with. Participants will also have an opportunity to raise individual issues and concerns through a question and answer session.

This will lead to the production of a periodic sales catalogue for standing hardwoods at a national level, in which material can be categorised to an agreed grading standard. A detailed programme and booking form will be available soon. For further information please contact COFORD (tel: 01-7167700, email: [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie)).

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)



*Above: Seamus Heaney (Coillte), Dr Eugene Hendrick (Director COFORD) and Gavin Munro (T&G Norman), speakers at the recent COFORD workshop on the preparation and sale of hardwoods*

# CREATE 2003

“Create 2003 – a passion for craft and design” is an exhibition celebrating excellence in design and showcasing the finest contemporary designed Irish furniture available. The event took place from 27 September to 5 October at Fota House, Fota Island, Carrigtwohill, Co Cork.

On display was the work of Ireland’s premier furniture makers, many of them award winning craftspeople and leading exponents of their art and who produce contemporary, innovative work which is distinctive yet functional. At the exhibition, each of the 22 exhibitors were given the opportunity to show at least three pieces of their recent work, demonstrating the value and beauty of native Irish hardwood timber. Native hardwoods such as ash, beech, oak elm and sycamore are featured as well as timber such as bog and burr oak, bog pine, yew, walnut and maple.

The exhibition was sponsored by Coillte and the Craft Council of Ireland and supported by Fota House and Gardens, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology and Letterfrack – The Furniture College.

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# National Survey of Native Woodlands

In recent years there has been a growing interest in our native woodlands. This is mainly as a result of an increase in environmental awareness and the designation of sites of conservation interest at a national level – National Heritage Areas (NHAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). At an international level, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) was initiated in 1990 by the Ministers responsible for forests. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 highlighted its increasing concern over the loss of biodiversity, which has resulted in more than 170 nations signing a Convention on Biological Diversity. The Convention includes several commitments for the signing parties. These include:

* Identify knowledge gaps;
* Map biodiversity;
* Monitor biodiversity development;
* Protection and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The National Forestry Standard and the concept of Sustainable Forest Management, as outlined by the Forest Service, require that greater attention be given to biodiversity, which in turn requires a greater knowledge of our native woodland resource. All these developments have led to an increasing awareness of the importance of our native woodlands.

The National Survey of Native Woodland in Ireland is based on the Forestry Inventory and Planning System (FIPS), which utilises a combination of satellite imagery and aerial photography to digitally map the majority of woodland in the State as well as classifying woodland into broad types. The survey will provide essential information on which all future field surveys of woodland in Ireland can be based. The information available in FIPS will be linked to the mapping and data gathering aspects of this survey. In addition to the linking of mapped woodland and basic data such as woodland type, location and ownership, a new database has been developed to store additional data.

FIPS provides a basic map of all areas of woodland, both coniferous and broadleaf in the state. This map was produced using a combination of 1993-1997 satellite imagery and 1995 panchromatic orthophotos to digitally map the majority of woodland in the state. The aim of this native woodland survey is to identify and demarcate, on six inch to one mile maps, every block of putative native woodland one hectare and larger in extent and forty metres and wider.

A database has been created that will be fully integrated with the existing FIPS data and has customised interfaces to simplify data entry and reduce errors. Each woodland site is being added to the database with the following information included:

* Area
* Grid reference
* Townland
* Woodland type
* Altitude
* Slope
* Aspect
* Topography
* Soil data
* Geology

In addition, all sites are crosschecked with the NHA/SAC network and any conservation designation noted, and subsequent information gathered. Ownership is investigated by reference to any information already held by Dúchas, Coillte and local enquiries.

Sites in counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and Offaly were prioritised for field survey using the information gathered during the desk study. This survey is the first step in a detailed and comprehensive investigation of the diversity of Irish woodlands, and an appraisal of the application of current classification systems. The survey also aims to facilitate a systematic evaluation of the conservation value and the regeneration status of Irish woodlands. The survey is ongoing and is being undertaken by BEC Consultants, a botanical, environmental and conservation consultancy group based in Dublin.

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# Carbon Corner

## Joined up thinking and climate change

Climate change issues and forests often revolve around carbon sequestration, and deforestation – the good and the bad news as far as concentrations of greenhouse gases are concerned. Without doubt forests are both major stores and sources of greenhouse gases, especially CO2. About 46% (1146 G[[1]](#footnote-1) t C) of the total terrestrial carbon stock is held in forest ecosystems, mostly in the soils that support tree growth, while emissions of greenhouse gases from deforestation, particularly in the tropics, are significant in global warming terms (about 1.6 G t C/annum).

Nevertheless, as readers of Carbon Corner will be aware, there are many other sides to the carbon story as far as forests and forestry are concerned. This column has many times referred to the cobenefits or coproducts that arise from an afforestation programme. Principally these involve the use of wood products as replacements for greenhouse-gas emitting fossil fuels and as timber and panel products used mainly in construction.

So, apart from carbon sequestration in the forest ecosystem what are these other benefits?

## Wood energy

As far as wood for energy is concerned, Carbon Corner remains convinced that it will continue to be one of the principal uses for wood not only in developing countries (where often it is the only fuel available) but increasingly in the developed world. Some may regard the US as ambivalent about climate change issues but there too there is an increasing focus on wood energy, and not just for small domestic heating applications. Many states and utilities are becoming more interested in wood energy and the benefits that it can bring - not just in reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions, but in reducing the level of other pollutants such as sulphur dioxide. As an example, Public Service Company of New Hampshire, the state’s largest electrical energy company, last week asked its Public Utilities Commission for permission to replace a 50 MW coal-fired boiler with a more efficient wood-fuelled generator at its Schiller Station in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The project aims to produce enough electricity to power about 50,000 homes by 2005. Interestingly, the company has said that one of its primary aims is to open up a new market for low-grade wood (including residues) in the state.

## Energy efficiency

Timber frame homes are warm homes – a fact well appreciated by those who own and live in them. Heating bills are lower in well-insulated houses, and consequently oil and gas bills are reduced. Such savings translate directly into reduced use of fossil fuels and, of course, fewer emissions of greenhouse gases. Better energy performance in buildings is one of the areas highlighted in the government’s National Climate Change Strategy. A target saving of 0.25 M t CO2/annum is foreseen as a result of the implementation of tighter building regulations (mainly for new buildings) that will reduce energy losses. But there is much scope for further reductions – residential buildings account for 30% of national CO2 emissions (see the COFORD Connects – *Energy Efficiency of Timber Frame Housing* - for more information on this topic).

## Carbon storage in products

Wood-based products are carbon stores, and while many products such as paper and some panel boards are short-lived, others such as structural timbers can have lifetimes of hundreds of years. The current assumption in calculating emissions from harvested wood products is that the store of global store forest products is constant, that there is no net increase. There is evidence, however, that in some countries wood product carbon stores are increasing over time. While attempts have been made in the past to develop approaches to deal with harvested wood products under the Kyoto Protocol, no agreed mechanism has emerged.

## Reduced emissions in production

It is not only in their use that wood-based products are energy efficient. Far less energy is used in the conversion and production of timber and panel products from round logs than in the case of steel, concrete or aluminium.

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# Third Annual General Meeting of British and Irish Hardwood Improvement Programme

The Annual General Meeting and Field Day of BIHIP, the British and Irish Hardwood Improvement Programme, was held in the Forest of Dean on 7 October 2003.

Almost 70 delegates from all over Britain as well as Northern Ireland and Ireland attended. After the meeting, the delegates visited a number of sites in the forest and observed the progress of each of the seven species groups. The first stop was in an untested clonal cherry (*Prunus avium*) orchard at Huntley, which has commenced production of cherry seed in commercial quantities. Discussion centred around the development of Wildstar clones developed at Horticulture Research International (HRI) and based on ten clones, selected from a cherry breeding programme and tested for resistance to bacterial canker.

The next stop was at one of six ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) seedling seed orchards close to Newent. The Ash Group of BIHIP commenced work in 1991 with the selection of superior trees (plus trees). This orchard is based on open pollinated progeny of thirty-six of these plus trees selected in Britain and is being measured for growth, vigour and overall performance. The Ash Group is currently working on the selection of a further five hundred plus trees throughout Britain and Ireland in order to commence development of its second series of seedling seed orchards.

The Oak Group visited an excellent oak stand in which plus trees were selected at the start of the original selection programme in 1995. The objective was to identify over two hundred “elite” oak trees (plus trees) for their excellent phenotypic characteristics such as straight trunks, lighter branching, superior vigour and better timber quality.

Research undertaken at the Oxford Forestry Institute identified a relationship between trees with large spring vessel sizes in the wood and the presence of shake. All selected trees were subjected to this test and as a result up to one hundred trees were rejected. Acorns from the remainder were collected over a three year period and grown at the research nursery of the Northern Research Station. Plants from this sowing were used to establish eight seedling seed orchards in the spring of 2003. One of these sites is located in Ireland at the old Coillte Nursery site in Rathluirc, Co Cork.

The BIHIP Birch Group was formed in 1997 with two main objectives:

1. To determine the extent of adaptive genetic variation in silver birch (*Betula* *pendula*).
2. To initiate a breeding programme for to improve the quality and productivity of the species.

Based on defined provenance regions in Britain, selected superior phenotypes are grafted and incorporated into an indoor seed orchard to provide improved seed for commercial use. This system, originally developed in Finland, was successfully used for a collection of plus trees from Scotland at Roslin.

In May 2003, the Sycamore Group held its inaugural meeting in Edinburgh and is developing a strategy for the next number of years. Its first objective is to identify new superior stands of sycamore for selection as seed stands in Britain and Ireland. In the longer term, the group aims to commence a programme of plus tree selection, testing and seed orchard development to further improve the quality and quantity of improved seed available to the trade.

BIHIP’s walnut research is led by Horticultural Research International and the Northmoor Trust. Initially, research concentrated on the common walnut (*Juglans regia*) but recently it has expanded to include black walnut (*Juglans nigra*). The walnut trials at the Northmoor Trust’s estate in Oxfordshire include one of the largest collections of walnut found worldwide.

The field day concluded in a stand of sweet chestnut where the chairman of the group explained that the overall aim of the Sweet Chestnut Group, which was formed in 1999, is to develop a programme for the genetic conservation and improvement of sweet chestnut. This objective will be achieved through the establishment of breeding programme, which in turn will lead to the development of seedling and clonal seed orchards. To date progress has been maintained in the identification of suitable stands for plus tree selections.

For further information about BIHIP, contact John Fennessy at COFORD (tel: 01-7167700 or email: [john.fennessy@coford.ie](mailto:john.fennessy@coford.ie)) or visit [www.bihip.com](http://www.bihip.com).

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# Note on the Forest of Dean

Except for the New Forest, the Forest of Dean is the largest ancient forest in public ownership in Britain. It remains very much a working forest but it is also a leading example of multi-purpose forestry. This results in a complexity of management, which is most intense in the broadleaf sector of the forest, which forms some 48% of the total area of 10,700 ha. The Forest of Dean is Britain’s premier oak forest, with this species comprising 55% of the broadleaf growing stock, including a significant proportion of old trees. Beech, ash and sweet chestnut are the other main species. Of the total, 84% is high forest with the remainder coppice and scrub. The objectives of management in the Forest of Dean are nature conservation; timber production and the protection and enhancement of the landscape, particularly as a setting for outdoor recreation.

*(Source: The Management of Broadleaf Woodland in the Forest of Dean – J.Everard, W.Heslegrave and D.Langford)*

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# Griffner Coillte launch new manufacturing facility for modular timber buildings in Mullingar

The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Dermot Ahern T.D. officially opened a new Griffner Coillte manufacturing facility in Mullingar on Friday 3 October. The new company is a joint venture between Griffner Haus AG of Austria, and Coillte and will design, market and manufacture premium modular buildings in which the main construction material is wood.

Speaking at the opening the Minister said that Griffner Coillte is good news for Mullingar. He went on to describe the opening as an important development not only because of the extra jobs that would be created but also because it represented a new era in the development of innovative and energy efficient construction methods. Commending the project partners, Griffner Haus and Coillte, on this initiative the Minister said “Sustainable energy efficient housing plays an important role in meeting the challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Adoption of energy efficient building systems is one way in which every citizen can contribute to these goals”.

The construction method in the Griffner Coillte house differs largely from most other timber frame construction systems currently available in Ireland, which use traditional masonry on top of the structural frame of the building. Griffner Coillte walls are fully manufactured in the factory and certain features are consistent, most noticeably the exposed timber and generous use of glass. As well as creating bright and comfortable surroundings, the timber and glass contribute to a warmer and more energy efficient home.

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# Fourth EUFORGEN Conifers Network Meeting

The fourth EUFORGEN Conifers Network meeting will take place in Pitlochry, Scotland from 18 to 20 October. The theme of the meeting is the ***Conservation and use of genetic resources of exotic conifer species in Europe***.

National representatives from twenty-six countries, including Ireland, will participate. The proceedings will be opened by a representative from the host country, followed by a welcoming address by Professor Csaba Matyas, Chairman of the EUFORGEN Conifer Working Group.

The main business of the meeting will include country updates and discussion on the progress made on gene conservation in sub-regional groups. The main sub-regions are:

1. Central and eastern Europe.
2. Mediterranean region.
3. Northern Europe.
4. Western Europe

The next session covers such issues as documentation, information and public awareness. This will be followed by a progress report made in the Network activities and a general discussion. The final indoor session is dedicated to a seminar on ***Conserving and using exotic conifers: experiences from the UK and implications for Europe***. A number of papers will be presented during this session.

The programme will conclude with an outdoor session at which some of the issues raised at the indoor meeting will be seen. A full report on the meeting will be presented in the next issue of the Newsletter.

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# Public private partnership in forestry positioning for success

## Significant private investment at risk if state abandons its forest policy

A seminar held in Dublin on 10 September 2003 urged Government to stick to its 1996 commitment to fund the development of 20,000 hectares of new forests per annum. The seminar focused on the success of the public private partnership as a mechanism for funding industry development.

In July 2003 the forestry sector published an independent socio – economic study of forestry in Ireland. The report carried out by Dr Peter Bacon & Associates states that investment in forestry makes sound economic and environmental sense. It asserted that the reduction in expenditure and commitment to the forestry programme was shortsighted in view of the strong return to the State from capital investment in forestry. Dr Bacon calculated a cost benefit ratio of 1.59 on public expenditure on forestry, which outperforms many other Government investments.

The report concluded that the long-term nature of forestry and the development of a forestry industry as outlined in the Government’s 1996 strategy for the development of the forestry sector, necessitates continuity, protection from the vagaries of the annual budgetary process, and regulatory stability. The seminar addressed some of these issues.

Dr Jouni Suoheimo, Secretary General of Finland’s National Forest Programme in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, outlined how Finland’s forest policy had been developed in partnership with the forestry sector and how a public private partnership had worked in implementing the Finnish National Forest Programme. Dr Suoheimo supported the long term, cross–sectoral, approach which had proven a good basis for annual forestry support from the Ministry of Finance As a result Finnish Government investments in forestry have risen by 40%.

Mr Joe Kennedy, General Manager of Weyerhaeuser-Europe Ltd’s MDF production facility in Clonmel, stated that Ireland has a natural competitive advantage in growing high quality fibre. To effectively withdraw capital funding which would maximise this natural advantage while continuing to increase current expenditure is misguided. He also stated that the processing industry had invested about €400 million on the basis of sustained raw material supply, and any uncertainty in this area could have negative effects on investment in the processing sector into the future.

Professor John FitzGerald of the ESRI reminded delegates that the benefits of forestry were not confined to timber production by stressing the important role for forestry in achieving a cost-effective solution to the challenge of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions from Ireland. He went on to say that, because the significant return from forestry in terms of reduced greenhouse gas emissions would take some time to mature, public policy needs to pay special attention to the problems faced by the sector.

In opening the seminar Mr George McCarthy, Chairman of IFIC, expressed concern over recent funding decision taken by the Government. He added “as an organisation representing the forestry and wood processing sector in Ireland, IFIC would request the Government to rethink the funding for forestry. The programme to date has been achieved through a public and private partnership approach, which should be continued. Furthermore, the Government must send a strong signal to those private investors and companies who have committed several million Euro to the industry, that the Government’s strategy for the industry will not be abandoned because of short-term cash flow difficulties. Such a progressive move would ensure that an internationally competitive and sustainable forest industry is established and that forestry remains a significant activity in the rural economy.”

For further information, please contact Marie Larby, Irish Forest Industry Chain, tel: 01-6051574; or Olwyn Callaghan, IBEC Press Office, tel: 01-6051637 or 087-2717769.

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# Wood Protection 2004

An international conference on wood preservation is to be held from 3 to 5 November 2004 at the Omni Royal Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

The conference will international speakers, including researchers, material and equipment suppliers, manufacturers, and end-users, who will present the most up-to-date research and developments related to the protection of wood and wood products.

Information transfer during the conference will take place via technical and poster presentations, discussions, and tabletop exhibits on the following subject areas:

* Wood protection and the lumber industry.
* New preservatives and preservative processes.
* Durability in wood structures.
* Environmental issues related to preservative-treated wood.
* Improving the durability of composite wood products.
* Advances in wood modification.

This conference is sponsored by the Forest Products Society. For more information email [conferences@forestprod.org](mailto:conferences@forestprod.org) or complete the form at [www.forestprod.org/woodprotection04info.html](http://www.forestprod.org/woodprotection04info.html) and submit it to the Forest Products Society.

[**Back to List of Contents**](#_CONTENTS)

# SMALLWOOD 2004: Creating solutions for using small trees

The SMALLWOOD 2004 conference will be held from 18 to 21 May 2004 at the Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, California, USA.

The objective of this conference is to provide state-of-the-art information on small tree utilization and to foster peer-to-peer learning. Enormous quantities of biomass are being generated from hazardous fuel reductions and are driving the need to create solutions for using small-diameter trees. SMALLWOOD 2004 will feature two full days of technical and poster presentations, discussions and exhibits on:

* Community Partnerships
* Forest Health Restoration
* Supply and Availability
* Harvesting Systems
* Processing and Manufacturing
* Markets for Products
* Energy from Woody Biomass
* Workforce Training

The conference will also include a pre-conference tour of mill sites, biomass energy facilities, and small forest products businesses, and a post-conference tour of facilities utilizing wood energy, a state-of-the-art small log sawmill, and related forest products businesses.

For more information on the conference, email conferences@forestprod.org or complete the form at <http://www.forestprod.org/smallwood04info.html> and submit it to the Forest Products Society.

[**Back to List of Contents**](#_CONTENTS)

# St Andrews Prize

Applications are invited from individuals, multi- disciplinary teams or community groups for the 2004 St Andrews Prize for the Environment. The primary objective of the St Andrews Prize is to find innovative solutions to environmental problems. The solutions should be practical, combining good science, economic reality and political acceptability. They should also have the potential for wider application elsewhere. In most circumstances, they should not already have received widespread recognition, but applications will be judged on their merits.

An important aim of the prize is to provide seed-funding to help promote implementation of such ideas and solutions. The prize consists of an award of $30,000 and a medal. There will be additional awards, each of $5,000, for the runners-up. The St Andrews Prize network is also available to provide other connections and support.

Initial one-page submissions should be sent by mail to the St Andrews mailing address or by email to arrive by 31 October 2003. Finalists will be required to present their submission and participate in debate at a seminar in St Andrews in May 2004. It will be a condition of entry that submissions for the St Andrews Prize are freely available to the organisers for publication in newspapers and journals internationally and for any other publicity activity required by the organisers.

For further information contact The St Andrews Prize Office, University of St Andrews, St Salvator's College, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AL Scotland. Tel: 01334 462161, fax: 01334 467458, email: [prize@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:prize@st-andrews.ac.uk) or visit [www.thestandrewsprize.com](http://www.thestandrewsprize.com)

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# IUFRO Extension Working Party Meeting

The sixth IUFRO Extension Working Party Symposium was held from 28 September to 3 October at Troutdale, Oregon, USA, with the theme ***Building Capacity Through Collaboration***. There were over 50 delegates from USA, Canada, Indonesia, Philippines, Chile, Australia, Slovenia, Norway, Germany, Italy, Kenya and Ireland, and the presentations covered a wide range of approaches to extension and information dissemination. The US Department of Agriculture offered grants for speakers invited to participate in the session on best practices in forest extension, and Lauren MacLennan, COFORD’s Technology Transfer Co-ordinator, was one of the recipients. She presented a paper entitled ***Technology Transfer – the COFORD Approach.***

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

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1. G= Giga = I billion [↑](#footnote-ref-1)