

Beetles in the spotlight at Royal Society Exhibition

FR's exhibit at the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition, "Biological cruise missile: beetle vs beetle in forest protection", attracted considerable attention. Feedback from visitors to the event and from the media was very positive. Hugh Evans was interviewed by BBC Radio 4 about the exhibit for the programme, *'Leading Edge'*, broadcast on 8 July.

First meeting of Heads of European National Forest Research Institutions

Professor Jim Lynch attended the first international meeting of European state forest research institutes, on 5 and 6 July. The meeting was hosted by the Austrian Federal Office and Research Centre for Forests, in Vienna. The 30 delegates were enthusiastic about the new opportunities for the closer integration of forestry and environmental programmes across the expanded European arena.

Phytobial Remediation

Professor Jim Lynch presented a seminar on 'phytobial remediation' at the Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II on 30 June. The concept of phytobial remediation developed by the Universities of Cornell, Naples and Surrey, which involves the use of plants roots and fungi to decontaminate land, is now interfacing with FR's activities, to use willow and poplar as a remediation plant.

Accessibility of Woodlands

FR's June seminar, 'Accessibility of Woodlands and Natural Spaces', attracted a wide-ranging audience, including planners, police, academics and environmental professionals. Accessibility is not just about well-managed paths; it includes psychological and cultural issues. Improving woodland accessibility is a key issue for many organisations, since the delivery of social and public benefits from woodlands and green space is crucially dependent on the quantity and quality of access. The seminar addressed five themes: access and perception of risk; how to manage exclusionary behaviour; access and liability; crime reduction and rehabilitation of offenders; and the location and design of accessible woodland. The workshop was organised by Liz O'Brien and Paul Tabbush (EHS Division), with backing from English Nature, CABE Space and Lancashire Constabulary. It was well received and opens the door to future joint initiatives with the many groups involved in providing accessible natural space.

Valuing woodlands

In June, Liz O'Brien (EHS Division) attended the 10th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management held in Keystone, Colorado. She presented a paper entitled 'A question of value: what do trees and woodlands mean to people in England and Vermont?'. Over five hundred delegates spent four days sharing social science research on natural resources and public lands. A conference book produced for the event provides an important summary of current knowledge in the society and natural resources field. Key future themes of importance were identified as diverse and local voices in natural resource decision-making, realigning and prioritising the multiple uses of public lands, and communities and collaboration.

The Future of Trees

On 14 June, Forest Research staff were treated to an accomplished lecture, 'The future of trees', by Sir Peter Crane, Director of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The seminar was hosted by The University of Surrey, as part of the Royal Society of Arts' season of lectures. It was the first collaborative venture organised in partnership by FR and University of Surrey.



Native Pinewoods Conference

The 'Ecology and Management of Large Native Pinewoods' conference, held in Inverness-shire by FR and BES in June, succeeded in bringing together a wide range of groups interested in pinewood ecology and biodiversity. In the 10 years since the 1994 Inverness "Pinewood Heritage" event, it is clear that, while targets for the establishment of new native pinewoods have been exceeded, more work is needed on pinewood expansion, restoration and improvement in condition. The issue of climate change and its influence on the pinewood ecosystem was also a major area of debate. Discussions over the three days of the conference also revealed how little is known about the biodiversity of Glen Affric and other northern pinewoods, compared to the likes of Abernethy and the Strathspey pinewoods. The conference discussed future research, conservation and restoration priorities, and how best to involve local communities in these activities.

BEGIN: Biomass for Energy Genetic Improvement Network

Peter Freer-Smith attended a stakeholders' meeting of this network, hosted by Rothamsted Research, on 29 June. Presentations on the work of the network were supplemented by a trip to visit Rothamsted's willow collection.

'Woodfuel - getting it right' Workshop and launch of new woodfuel information packs

Over 17-18 June, 100 people attended the workshop sessions held at Raby Estate, Barnard Castle, County Durham. The event was the first of two FC England outreach woodfuel workshops to be run by Technical Development and was organised in co-operation with Northwoods, the local woodland initiative group which leads the IGNITE training network. The event comprised a combination of talks from industry experts and site visits to both installations and woodland production sites. The overall aim is to improve awareness of the opportunities that wood and forest residues present as a source of renewable energy; and to increase understanding of the harvesting, processing and combustion of wood as a fuel.

A new woodfuel information pack was launched at the event by Geoff Hatfield, Director FE England. This pack will shortly be available as a pdf file on FR's internet site.

Forthcoming Events

12 July: Ben Bradshaw, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, is to visit Alice Holt on 12 July.

14-15 October: Tree Establishment Trials. This event is being jointly organised by Technical Development and the Woodland Trust and will be held in Foredam, near Colchester, Essex. For further details, contact Joyce Rammel at TD, Ae.

14-15 October: Woodfuel workshop, Clinton Estate, Devon. Reservations are being taken by Joyce Rammel at TD, Ae.

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