



FOREST RESEARCH Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2002

People News

A big welcome to:

- Dominic Rourke, who joins NRS on temporary assignment from FE, to support FR's GIS activities.

Congratulations:

- NRS cross-country runners David Anderson, Russell Anderson, Jason Hubert and Juan Suárez who excelled in the recent Scottish Civil Service Cross-Country Championships at Stirling University. Representing the FC over a muddy five miles, they won the team competition and David won the individual event. Russell took silver in the veteran class.
- Margaret Plews (WEB) has earned her place in 'China Challenge', which involves trekking along parts of the Great Wall, to support the Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre. To date Margaret has raised over £4500 by organising a host of events including the sale of mincepies in Glentress Forest – China will be a breeze in comparison!
- Chris Quine has successfully completed his PhD at Edinburgh University, with a thesis on 'The role of wind in the ecology and naturalisation of Sitka spruce in upland Britain.'

Farewell to:

- David Lonsdale (Path), will be retiring on 27 March. The wide range of research topics covered by David over the years include beech bark disease, decay in amenity trees and alder Phytophthora, and David is particularly respected for his knowledge and insights into veteran and hazardous trees.

Obituary:

- We send our heartfelt condolences to Julian Evans, whose wife Margaret recently passed away after a short illness.

Science & Business News

Welsh Woodland and Biomass Strategy

A Welsh Woodland Development and Biomass Strategy Group has been formed, with the support of Welsh National Assembly Agricultural Department (NAWAD) and FC. The group will draw up an action plan by 31 May, which will identify new opportunities for the sector and highlight where further research and support is required. Chris Jones (TSU Talybont) is representing FR on this group.

Stability research stopped in its tracks!

An FR car parked in the NRS car park fell victim to a large tree during the recent high gales. The entire Stability team watched as the tree crashed down on the car. [Click here](#) to view photograph.

Golden Jubilee planning under way

AH has started planning a celebratory event to commemorate the Golden Jubilee. If you have any creative ideas for the day's activities contact David Rose (Path) or post them to 'Golden Jubilee' folder in FR's Public Folders section in Outlook.

FR wins English Nature GIS contract

WEB & Woodland Surveys have won an English Nature contract for GIS work to explore the biodiversity benefits of combining the Ancient Woodland Inventory with the National Inventory of Woodlands.

Scottish Biodiversity conference

FR's WEB is helping co-ordinate the Conference on Biodiversity Research in Scotland. This will be held on 27–28 March at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. Speakers from a wide variety of institutions will review progress in Scottish Habitat and Species Action Plans and present new research findings in a wide variety of subjects including forest biodiversity, genetics and climate change. To find out more or book a place, contact Margaret Plews at: margaret.plews@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Biotype goes electronic

WEB's quarterly Biodiversity & Conservation Newsletter is now being distributed electronically. Issue 20 is out now. To view, [click here](#).

FR's new Production Forecast Programme tested

FR's updated Production Forecast Programme is being tested by FE's Forest Planning Group. The update allows more flexible specification of thinning regimes and includes new algorithms for calculating thinning and felling volumes for delayed fell and low impact thinning systems.

Squirrel Forum endorses FR's review

Scottish Squirrel Forum has accepted FR's recommendations on the identification of priority areas for red squirrel management in Scotland. Brenda Mayle and Matthew Griffiths (both WEB) used GIS and National Inventory data to inform their work.

January

Visits & Conferences

MSc students from Imperial College visited AH. After talks from Hugh Evans (Ento), Joan Webber (Path) and Matthew Griffiths (WEB), the students visited the Headley Nursery and Open Top Chambers.

Clive Brasier (Path) and Hugh Evans (Ento) attended the 13th USDA Interagency Research Forum on Invasive Species held in Annapolis, USA. Clive presented the keynote presentation entitled 'The Evolution of Invading Forest Pathogens via Interspecific Hybridisation.' Hugh presented a paper on alternatives to methyl bromide for plant quarantine.

Mark Broadmeadow (ERB) presented work on water, ozone and carbon fluxes in lowland oak woodland at York University. Barry Gardiner and Elspeth Macdonald (both Silv N) attended an EU meeting for 'Compression Wood' project in Florence.

Fiona Kennedy, Andy Moffat and Tom Nisbet (all ERB) met MLURI, CEH and UCL to discuss use of the MAGIC model in forested catchments.

Mike Perks (Silv N) visited New Zealand to attend a workshop on the modelling of seedling growth and establishment.

Sam Samuel (TIB) reported from the recent Standing Committee meeting in Brussels that good progress is being made implementing measures related to the revised FRM Directives.

Joan Webber (Path) and Hugh Evans (Ento) spoke at the DEFRA Plant Health and Seeds

Inspectorate Conference in Southampton. In her presentation of 'Current Significant Diseases', Joan included an update on Sudden Oak Death as well as discussing other quarantine tree diseases.

Cedric Wilkins of the Scottish Forestry Cluster visited NRS to discuss forest biotechnology. He was very interested to learn of FR's capabilities in tree breeding, vegetative propagation and molecular markers.

NRS hosted a meeting of FC's Scottish Conservators and FC-Scotland staff, at which FR staff presented updates on their research programmes

Forthcoming Events

7 February: Research Management Board at AH.

8 February: 3:15 p.m. AH EntoPath Seminar by Claire Ozanne of Surrey University: 'Forest edges - hotspots or barriers?.'

8 February: 1:30 p.m. NRS Staff Seminar by Penny Edwards, Environmental Consultant: 'People & Forestry: A Study of Rural Development & Urban Forestry.'

14 February: FR / ICF Research Update Seminar at Newton Rigg, Cumbria.

22 February: 1:30 p.m. NRS Seminar on 'Public Money for Public Good' – public participation in the development of long-term forest plans by Paul Tabbush.

1 March: 1.30 pm AH Staff Seminar on 'The Eden Project' by Tony Kendle, to be held in AH staff restaurant.

4 March: Directors of the Edinburgh Centre for Rural Research will visit NRS.

6 March: Alan Pottinger of Tropical Forest Resource Group will visit AH.

N.B. The FR / TGA / ICF Research Update Seminar at Hill College, Abergavenny planned for 7 February has been postponed.

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Next Newsletter

Deadline for contributions to the March Newsletter is 26 February.

