



# FOREST RESEARCH Newsletter

MARCH 2002

## People News

### A big welcome to:

- Jenny Claridge, whom we are delighted to formally welcome onto FR's staff as Publications Officer in Communications branch, based at AH.
- Mariagrazia Moschetta who will join Stats & Computing as an Assistant Statistician on 4 April.
- Louise Sing who will join WEB at NRS as a GIS Officer on 18 March. Having read Geography at Birmingham University, Louise completed a MSc in GIS at Greenwich, which included a 3D GIS study of fish species & coral reef habitats.

### Congratulations to:

- David Clark (TSU Bush) who starts work on 4 March in the newly established post of Research Nursery Manager at Bush.
- Linda & Symon Legge (Admin NRS) on the birth of their third son, Stuart.
- All FR staff who received promotion from the recent Research Boards:  
Lorraine Adams (ERB), Alice Broome (WEB), Colin Edwards (Silv N), Sam Evans (Mens), Max Hislop (Silv N), Jonathan Humphrey (WEB), Tony Hutchings (ERB), Gary Kerr (SSRB), Brenda Mayle (WEB), Roger Moore (Ento), Duncan Ray (Silv N), Stephen Smith (WEB), Nigel Straw (Ento) and Juan Suárez (Silv N).
- All FR staff whose ideas have been selected by the FC FIRS Panel as Regional Level winners. Colin McEvoy (Silv N), suggested a solution to manage the receipt of junk faxes now being trialled by BSD. Brian Hanwell (TSU Shobden) suggested using GPS for plot verification; and Bill Rayner and Nick Evans (TSU Inver) who, with FC colleagues Peter Walling and Stuart Stanley, suggested a GIS method for displaying GPS waypoints, to improve surveying.

### Farewell:

David Lonsdale (Path), whose retirement was announced in our last newsletter, departs in March. David hopes that colleagues will be able to join him at a farewell gathering at AH on 27 March. We wish David all the best.

### Transfers:

- Corinne Baker will transfer to FE as Seed Trading Officer on 1 April.

## Science & Business News

### Woodland Inventories Launched

Steve Smith and Justin Gilbert of Woodland Surveys held a Seminar at the West Midlands Conservancy to launch the first of a series of English Regional and County inventory reports. The launch of reports for other English Regions will follow during the next 3 months. The Scottish National Forestry Inventory will be launched on 22 March.

### Impacts of Trees on Public Health

FR's Social Forestry Unit is organising three one-day 'expert consultations', in Dumfries, London and Cardiff, to bring together researchers, policy makers and practitioners interested in trees, woodlands and their impacts on public health. The presentations and workshops will focus on policy, practice, promotion and research. For more details, contact [Liz.O'Brien@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.O'Brien@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

### Focus on Climate Change

Around a hundred conservationists, scientists, forestry managers and policy makers attended an FC Conference on 'The Status and Future of our Forests', held in London on 27 February. Highlighting both the positive and the negative impacts that climate change is predicted to have on Britain's forests, the conference was used to launch Mark Broadmeadow's Bulletin 'Climate Change: Impacts on UK Forests'. Mark Broadmeadow, Andy Moffat (both ERB) and Hugh Evans (Ento) were amongst the conference speakers.

### Progress on Bids for Framework 5

Three of FR's bids for EU Framework 5 projects have successfully passed the project evaluation stages and proceeded to contract negotiation stage. FR is the project co-ordinator for PHRAME, an entomological project to assess the risks and management of pinewood nematodes. WEB and TDB, respectively, will lead FR's role as partner in the VISULANDS and ERGOWOOD projects.

## FR wins Carbon Accounting Contract

FR's Mensuration branch and the University of Sheffield at Hallam have won a £50 K contract for Carbon Accounting from DTI.

## Root Development on Gley Soils

Bruce Nicoll and Bill Rayner (TSU Bush) are checking root development in afforestation schemes planted on gley soil with machine planters, to review the recommendations of Bulletin 119 'Cultivation of Soils for Forestry'.

## SIAD Exhibition at Alice Holt FC

Arts Foundation students from the Surrey Institute of Art and Design will unveil their design ideas for Alice Holt's foyer on 14 March. The collaborative is designed to give students experience of working to a client's design brief - FR hopes for some inspiring ideas as a by-product! The students' work will be exhibited in AH foyer. Staff are invited to preview the exhibition from 15:00 to 16:30 on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

## Financial Seminars

FC is to run a series of short financial awareness seminars, to provide an insight into FC's finances, and targeted to all staff who handle budgets and financial data. Tony Cornwell will run briefings on FR's finances to complement these events. FR staff from all disciplines are encouraged to attend.

## Additional First Aid Course

An additional Emergency First Aid course is being organised at Alice Holt on 13 May for staff who were unsuccessful in obtaining a place on 12 March course. Interested staff should contact Wendy Groves (Admin AH).

## February

### Visits & Conferences

- Over 90 delegates attended a FR Research Update Seminar at Newton Rigg in Cumbria organised by FR in conjunction with the Institute of Chartered Foresters. Topics included ESC, Upland Oak Regeneration, Regeneration of Sitka Spruce, Deer Protection, Social Forestry and Woodfuel Boilers.
- Jim Dewar attended a seminar organised by FC and the UK Rural Agencies. The Countryside Agency's Land Use Policy Group presented work to influence the CAP mid-term review and the proposals of their Woodland Policy subgroup to promote an enhanced role for forestry in sustainable rural development.
- Stuart Heritage (Ento) was one of three UK delegates at an EU-funded 3-day workshop run by Eurobiobiz, designed to help researchers turn biotechnology ideas into successful business proposals.

- Brenda Mayle (WEB) attended a meeting with the British Trust for Ornithology and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, to address the decline of woodland bird populations.
- Andy Moffat (ERB) presented a talk at Loughborough University on the value of forestry as a use for reclaimed land. Delegates included practitioners and policy makers in land reclamation.
- Tom Nisbet (ERB) and staff from the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology were amongst attendees at a meeting organised by FE Wales to examine riparian forest management and its effects on the freshwater environment. Delegates visited several Welsh FE sites.
- Tom Nisbet (ERB) was invited to speak at the FC's Advisory Panel Technical Subcommittee on the current revision of the *Forests and Water Guidelines*.
- Simon Rennie, CE of Central Scotland Countryside Trust visited NRS and is keen to follow-up discussions about the social aspects of forestry and deer protection.
- Kath Thorpe (Path) attended a meeting in Boston for the EU *Woodpole* project. Kath presented FR's work on the biological control of wood decay, which forms two of the sub-tasks of this project.
- Joan Webber (Path) gave a presentation on Phytophthora Disease of Alder to the Robson Meeting, held in Clevedon near Bristol. Alder is of great interest to delegates of this annual meeting, who share an interest in aquatic habits and invasive species.

## Forthcoming Events

- 12 March: AH Staff Restaurant closed.
- 13 March: Research Management Board, NRS
- 14 March: SIAD Exhibition opens in Alice Holt foyer. Staff Preview 15:00 – 16:30.
- 9 April: FRCC Meeting, Edinburgh
- 11 April: FC Commissioners visit NRS

## Newsletter Team

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## Next Newsletter

Deadline for contributions to the April Newsletter is 22 March.

