



FOREST RESEARCH Newsletter

Issue 2/2003

People News

FR's new CEO appointment confirmed

Professor Jim Lynch a leading Biochemist has been appointed to the position of CEO at FR. Prof. Lynch will be joining us on 1 July from his current position as Professor of Biotechnology and Head of the School of Biomedical and Life Sciences at the University of Surrey.

To view the full press release please click [here](#)

Welcome to:

- Dr Geoff Morgan who has joined Stats & IT Services as Principal Statistician at Alice Holt.
- Dr Stuart A'Hara who is joining TIB at NRS his first project will be to develop a molecular map of Sitka based on AFLP and microsatellite markers.
- Carol Knight who has joined Finance and Planning as an AO.

Congratulations to:

- Sam Evans (Mens) who has been elected to an Honorary Senior Fellowship in the School of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, University of Durham.
- Paul Taylor (Mens) on being awarded his MPhil in Hydrology and Sedimentology from Lancaster University with a thesis on 'Water turbulence over salmonid redds'.
- Jamie Awdry (TSU Alice Holt) on winning the FIRS regional level award for his innovative Lightweight Spraying Screen, he has been invited to Edinburgh for the presentation in May.
- Matt Wilkinson (ERB) and Becky who were married on 8 March, all best wishes for your future together.
- James Wilson (TSU Cairnbaan) and Karen on the birth of their daughter, Ailsa Mary, who was born on 18 February. A sister for Jamie and Lewis and another grandchild for Dave Tracy and Elma Wilson.

Farewell to:

- Margaret Plews who is leaving NRS to take up a new post as Training and Hospitality Co-ordinator for the John Martin Group. Good luck Margaret.
- John Farquhar will be leaving SSRB and Helen Whitaker is to leave TIB shortly, best wishes to you both.

Science & Business News

Further research in the fight against *Hylobius*

Hugh Evans (Ento) and Kate Fielding (TSU N) visited FE in Aberystwyth, Kielder and Dornoch to discuss the launch of forest-scale trials of the management support system for restocking pests arising from the IFM project. The work has been developed through various programmes on population dynamics, plant quality, biological control and alternatives to permethrin and should offer FE District Managers choices in management of the *Hylobius* threat. The ultimate aim is to reduce dependence on chemical insecticides within a sustainable management system. Approximately 100 ha in each territory will be included in the trial next year, which will be the responsibility of TSU staff. Detailed planning, using both conventional and GIS mapping of the selected forest blocks in all three countries is now underway and will enable the trial to commence in time for the *Hylobius* activity period in the spring.

Blowing in the wind

A project concerning Timber Cladding in Oceanic Environments has been approved by the EU Northern Peripheries Programme (an Interreg scheme), FR will be involved with the evaluation of wind climates in various parts of northern Britain.

Newton's new contract

TSU Newton have won a contract with Dornoch FD to carry out stump destruction to assess *Hylobius* populations (and the risks to replanting) on sites that have been fallow for 2–5 years.

Soil maps enter the digital age

Bill Rayner (TSU N) has won additional funds from Forest Planning to continue his work on preparing paper Soil Maps for digitising and population of Arc View (GIS software). This work will take some years to complete, but maps for a numbers of Districts have been 'cleaned' and sent (via Mapping and Geographical Information Unit) in digitised format for loading into Arc View by the Districts.

Liz's literature review

Liz O'Brien (SSRB) has a paper in the current issue of 'Forestry' entitled 'Human values and their importance to the development of forestry policy in Britain: a literature review'. The paper highlights the fact that sustainable forest management is the key issue for forestry and there is a need to have greater regard for the social element of this equation. It is argued in the paper that a clearer idea of the depth and breadth of the public's values for the environment will provide important information for forestry policymakers and managers.

Archaeology Intranet Website now live

The website developed by Peter Crow (ERB) and Tim Yarnell (PPD) can now be found on the Intranet at <http://forest/archaeology/web/index.htm>

Alice Holt Toad Alert

The annual toad pilgrimage to the moorhen pond at AH began on Tuesday 4 March, by 7 pm there had already been 2 fatalities (toad vs. car, an unequal battle). Please take extra care when driving past the pond to avoid further deaths of amorous toads. The toads can now be heard in full voice, the males serenading the females, possibly an interesting stop for lunchtime walkers.

Visit and Conferences

- Hugh Evans (Ento) attended the 14th USDA Inter Agency Research Forum on Gypsy Moth and Other Invasive Species in Annapolis, Maryland in January 2003. The meeting covered a wide range of topics relevant to European forests and included recent information on Asian longhorn beetle, emerald ash borer (a new pest from China, now causing extensive damage to trees in Michigan and Ontario) and sudden oak death syndrome. Hugh gave a paper entitled 'Invasive insect pests: how many are needed to establish a pioneer population?' which was very well received and provoked considerable discussion.
- FR was well represented at the RASE/RFS Woodlands Conference 'The Invaders' held at Stoneleigh earlier this month. Joan Webber spoke on the subject of 'Pathogens – Sudden Oak Death and others', Hugh Evans' presentation was entitled 'Insects – Ips, Dendroctonus, Gypsy Moths and others waiting in the wings' and Brenda Mayle's 'Introduced deer: - impacts and control options'.
- Paul Tabbush (SSRB) accompanied Max Hislop (Silv N) when Max gave a presentation to the FC's Forestry for People panel, the presentation dealt with aspects of the Social Research Unit's work.
- Helen Armstrong (WEB) met Scottish conservators to discuss the impacts of stock grazing in woodland.
- Russell Anderson (WEB) visited Tentsmuir forest to advise on floods in forest and adjacent farmland related to water level management at Morton Lochs National Nature Reserve by Scottish Natural Heritage. This is a joint study with Tom Nisbet (ERB).
- Max Hislop (Silv N) gave two well-attended seminars entitled 'Who needs forestry?' at Newton Rigg and Edinburgh University.
- Jonathan Humphrey and Kevin Watts (WEB) contributed to a forest landscape course in Plas Tan Y Bwlch. Jonathan has also run further deadwood training courses.





- There have been discussions with the RSPB about methodologies of recording forest/woodland structure, with a view to co-ordinating our approaches to the next round of the NIWT (national inventory of woodland trees) and a forthcoming RSPB survey. The RSPB point survey will connect the presence of woodland birds to some aspects of woodland habitat/structure this in turn would enable us to tie in data from the NIWT to birds most likely to be present.

Forthcoming Events

14 March: 'Fungi and the Fynbos: is stem canker disease a threat to indigenous Proteaceae in South Africa?' An Entopath seminar to be given by Dr Sandra Denman. AH at 3:15, SMR or CR.

14 March: 'Effects of spacing and mixtures on the early growth of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior* L.)' a seminar to be presented by Gary Kerr at NRS at 13:30.

28 March: 'Landscape and mountain pine beetle management', an Entopath seminar to be given by Dr Roger Whitehead from the Pacific Forestry Centre, Victoria, Canada. AH 3:15, SMR or CR.

23-24 April: FRCC Workshop – 'Woodland Birds in the UK'. The topic of woodland birds and the possible decline in their populations is becoming prominent in a number of policy areas within the UK and is being accompanied by calls for supporting research.

The objectives for the workshop are –

- To briefly summarise recent/existing research work on 'woodland birds' in the UK
- To stimulate funding consortia to progress a woodland bird research agenda
- To review and prioritise research needs, incorporating the needs of policy makers and within the context of overall biodiversity research priorities
- To identify key scientific questions

The meeting will be held in York from late afternoon on 23 April to the afternoon of 24 April, with support from Defra and FC. For further information please contact Chris Quine chris.quine@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

29 May – 1 June: 'Working and Walking in the Footsteps of Ghosts' the sixth Regional Biodiversity Conference and International Conference, at Sheffield Hallam University. The ecology, archaeology and management of ancient woods and associated land - coincidence, conflict and compromise, or sustainability? Please call Paul Howden-Leach on 0114 225298 or visit the website www.shu.ac.uk/sybionet for further information.

Conundrum

Listen to the sorrow of a nation bowed
By the crack of thunder on a Zimbabwe crowd.
The boys in blue are back in white
Capricious fate having ended their fight.

Issue 1's answer was Silver Birch, *Betula pendula*, one of the first trees to come back into Britain at the end of the Ice Age. White bark and weeping branches. Used in furniture (IKEA sells a lot), particularly turnery i.e. chair legs and spindles, also a very good firewood.

Conundrum: Alan Harrison

A plea from your Editor

Please remember that in order to best reflect the whole of FR's work and people I need to hear from **you** with items of interest whether business or more individual. Please send your articles directly to me.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Margaret Plew's for all her assistance in collating newsletter articles, I shall really miss her help.

The deadline for contributions to the next newsletter is Monday 14 April.

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