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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2008

Chairman's Message

After various meetings of woodland owners throughout Donegal, the Donegal Woodland Owners Society Limited has been formed. The main objective of this non-profit making group is to maximise returns to forest owners through good, proactive, sustainable management of their woodlands. This will be done by adding value inside the forest gate and developing knowledge and practical experience in the management of their forests, thereby creating employment opportunities in rural areas of Donegal. The voluntary commitment, dedication and professionalism of our members shown to the Society to date have been inspiring - long may it continue. Well done. I look forward to meeting you all on 4th October at our Firewood Processor Demonstration (details on Page 2).

John Jackson

First Committee Elected

Chairman:	John Jackson
Vice Chairman:	Lewis Griffith
Secretary:	John Coyle
Joint Treasurers:	Charles Doherty Hugh McGarrigle
Events Coordinators:	William Callaghan Daniel O'Donnell
Committee Members:	Raymond Treacy Michael Mullin Leslie Edwards Fergus Monaghan Keith Stewart Thomas Becht

Official Launch 28 June 2008

By Mary Coughlan TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment



Martin Regan, Danny O'Donnell, Seamus Herron, Mary Coughlan TD, Cllr. Patrick McGowan, Mayor Gerry Crawford, John Jackson, Anne McGill, Eric Morrow, Willie Callaghan



Back Row (Left to Right): Danny O'Donnell, Thomas Becht, Willie Callaghan, Charlie Doherty, Keith Stewart, Michael Mullin, Raymond Treacy. Front Row: Lew Griffith, John Jackson, John Coyle. Missing from photo: Hugh McGarrigle, Fergus Monaghan, Leslie Edwards



Ralph Sheppard, Raymond Treacy, Mary Coughlan TD

UPCOMING EVENT

Firewood Processor Demonstration:

Demonstration of new Firewood Processor purchased by Donegal Woodland Owners Society Limited for use by members. Donegal Woodland Owners Society Limited's new firewood processing machine, a Hakki Pilke 37 Easy with Log Rack, will be in operation. Hardwood and softwood timber will be processed for the firewood market. Demonstrations on small scale farm forestry timber extraction, stacking and grading for the firewood processor will be held and the issues surrounding the handling, bagging and the firewood market will be discussed.

Venue: Farm forest of John Jackson, Teevickmoy, Stranorlar

Date: Saturday 4th October 2008 at 2pm



New firewood processor in operation

Directions to John Jackson's Farm / Forestry in Teevickmoy, Stranorlar, Co Donegal:

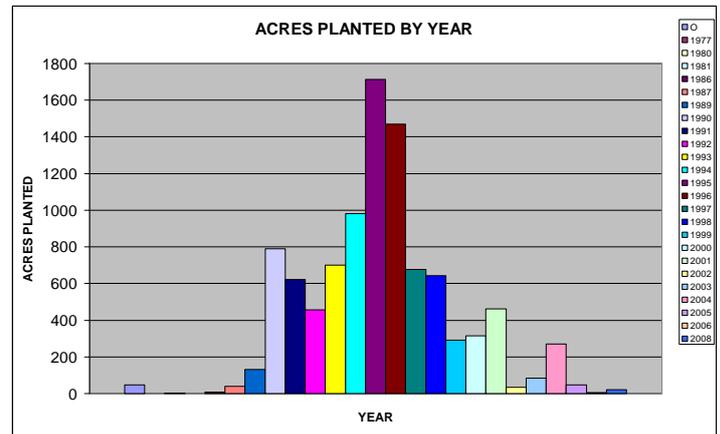
From Stranorlar

- In Stranorlar, take the N 13 Derry / Letterkenny Road immediately at the Emo garage/ Mace shop.
- Clock 1.7 miles from this junction. Turn left off main road (opposite forest on your right side). This narrow exit is between 2 green bollards. Forest Event signs will be up.
- Travel straight uphill (1/3 mile); continue around sharp right hand bend. The tarred road veers to the left, but you travel up the laneway rising directly in front of you.

All welcome, including non members.

MEMBERSHIP

Donegal Woodland Owners Society Limited has currently over 120 members, who between them own approximately 10,000 acres of private forestry located in Co. Donegal. The graph below shows this on a year of planting basis:



New members are always welcome!

Remember, this is **your** group and it will succeed or fail largely based on **your** input. Any issues you would like the group to consider please contact a Committee member in your area or telephone 086 0410809. Committee meetings are held once or twice a month.

Services Available to Members

- 🌳 Inspection Paths
- 🌳 Management Plans
- 🌳 Felling Licence Applications
- 🌳 Reconstitution
- 🌳 High Pruning
- 🌳 Inventory
- 🌳 Thinning
- 🌳 Firewood Processing on site

MEMBERS CORNER:

A Guide to Inspection Paths

By Daniel O'Donnell in conjunction with Steven Meyen, Teagasc

What are inspection paths?

Inspection paths are parallel paths providing access throughout a forest. Inspection paths should be cut as the woodland becomes more inaccessible. This was demonstrated at the recent Donegal Woodland Owners Society Limited Demo in conjunction with Teagasc. Too often, the owner only looks at their trees from the outside. This tends to give a totally inaccurate impression of the crop's performance.

Why cut inspection paths?

In the Farm Forestry series no. 10 "First Thinning in Conifers" leaflet provided by Teagasc, it states that inspection paths are essential to gain access into your crop:

- paths make it possible for a professional forester to assess your crop
- they allow owners an opportunity to inspect their crop and to see if any additional work is required
- it helps owners decide if / when thinning is an option

How to cut inspection paths?

Inspection paths are parallel paths that are cut between 50 to 100 metres apart depending on the size of the forest.

Branches should be removed to head height left and right between two rows of trees. Cut only dead branches (don't cut branches with green needles). Take care not to damage the stem while at the same time don't leave a peg on the tree: a peg left on the tree will die back and form a dead knot in the timber. This operation is called "brashing".

Paths should be straight and run between two lines of trees.

Check every now and again that you are staying straight as even the most experienced forester could drift offline and on a long run this could put you out by a long way.

Branches removed from the trees should be placed between the trees on either side. This will help keep the path clear and prevent you from tripping over cut branches.

Do not try and cut a path from a drain as they may be wet or have stones in them and could be unsafe.

Equipment required

Either a handheld pruning saw or a chainsaw can be used for cutting inspection paths.

Using a handheld pruning saw is slower than using a chainsaw but it will leave a neater job. Wear appropriate safety gear as these saws are extremely sharp.

Using a chainsaw is quicker and much more dangerous. It is therefore essential that you have successfully completed a basic chainsaw handling course, that you are wearing appropriate protective equipment and that suitable insurance is in place.

Safety first!

It is essential that appropriate safety measures are in place if using either a handheld pruning saw or chainsaw.

The same principles apply if you are putting a path in a broadleaf woodland but more care has to be taken when cutting branches.

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Events held by the Society



Group pictured at the very successful Forest Road Event 25th June 2008

- 🌲 Forest Roads Event 25th June 2008 at Liskerran, Ballybofey in conjunction Teagasc
- 🌲 Field Officers Training Day 11th August 2008 at Carricknahorna, Ballyshannon. Training given by Steven Meyen, Teagasc
- 🌲 Inspection Paths Demonstration 11th August 2008 at Carricknahorna, Ballyshannon
- 🌲 Inspection Paths Demonstration 14th August 2008 at Leckemy (Inishowen)

Events attended by members on behalf of the Society

- Clare Wood Energy Open Day 25th April 2008
- FarmFest 08 20th June 2008, Athenry, Co. Galway
- Launch of RDS Forestry Awards 9th July 2008, Navan, Co. Meath
- Producer group meeting hosted by Teagasc 23rd July 2008, Tullamore Co. Offaly



Mr. Tony Killeen TD, Minister of State at the Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food with special responsibility for Forestry and Fisheries, John Jackson and Aoife Smith, Forest Link at the group's stand at FarmFest 08, Athenry

Update on forestry grant schemes

Most of you have heard by now about the cutbacks at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The current situation is as follows: all Forestry Support Schemes are currently suspended as the funding which had been provided for these schemes in 2008 has been exhausted. This situation will be reviewed when the funding position for next year becomes clear. This means in a nutshell that financial assistance for the building of forest roads, formative shaping, woodland improvement, high pruning, etc. are suspended at present. The Forest Service stated that "applications are still being accepted and processed under these schemes, but issuing of full approvals is deferred at present pending allocation of funds".

That's the bad news. The good news is that establishment schemes are still operational. Mr Tony Killeen TD, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, reassured landowners interested in forestry that applications are being processed, and approvals issued, in relation to the Afforestation Scheme, the Forest Environment Protection Scheme and the Establishment element of the Native Woodland Scheme. The Minister of State stated: "The main Afforestation Scheme, the Forest Environment Protection Scheme and the establishment element of the Native Woodland Scheme remain fully operational. The Afforestation Scheme and FEPS continue to offer farmers guaranteed annual tax-free premium payments" adding that "over €93.8 million has been paid out on the various forestry schemes by the Department to date this year".

For more detailed information, contact Steven Meyen, forestry development officer with Teagasc on 074-9721231 or log on to www.teagasc.ie/forestry.

Teagasc's NEW website

For detailed information on all forestry grants, up to date events diary, contact details or management tips, log on to www.teagasc.ie/forestry.

REMINDER

Please complete and return the form regarding CN number(s) if you have not already done so!

Newsletter produced with the kind assistance of Teagasc's Forestry Development Unit.



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