



P.O. Box 10, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal, Ireland

Tel. 086 0410809

E-mail: [admin.dwogsl@gmail.com](mailto:admin.dwogsl@gmail.com)

[www.donegalwoodlandowners.com](http://www.donegalwoodlandowners.com)

## NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2009

### Chairman's Message

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 in the Finn Valley AC Centre in Stranorlar at 9 am the Donegal Woodland Owners Society Ltd. will hold an all day training, marketing and demonstration day on forest inventory, timber sales and timber processing. This important event is a must for all Donegal forest owners whose timber is approaching thinning or harvesting stage:

#### 19th September 2009

#### Seminar – Finn Valley AC Centre, Mill Brae, Stranorlar

- 09:00 Coffee & Registration
- 09:30 Introduction to DWOSL and Overview of today's activities
- 10:00 Inventory – why and how it is done
- 10:45 Thinning and Harvesting procedures
- 11:15 Practical Examples & Questions
- 12:00 Wood Processing, Marketing and adding Value within a Cooperative
- 12:30 Light Lunch (provided free of charge)

#### Field excursion – Local member's woodland, Ballybofey

- 14:00 Practical Inventory Procedures & Measurement  
to Machinery Demonstration
- 17:00 Firewood - Processing, Drying & Marketing

Further details on this event can be found on pages 2, 3 and 4 of this Newsletter.

Having been awarded Grant Aid of €33,733 from Donegal Local Development Company Ltd. through LEADER funding, the Donegal Woodland Owners Society Ltd. is now busy with the ongoing inventory of members' woodlands which are approaching first thinnings or harvesting stage. The Society has purchased up-to-date equipment and software in order to compile data on our forests, along with increasing our pool of machinery for timber harvesting and processing.

While continuing with the Society's bottom-up approach, hands-on training is now being offered to members and forest owners to empower them with vital forestry management skills and knowledge. Our forestry machinery pool and software will assist us in the professional management of our woodlands. Our local timber marketing and internet sales have created local employment and is adding value to our timber.

The Society is pleased to announce that it has employed a qualified forester Ms Meike Siebel, to oversee the growing work load.

Thank you to all members who have paid their membership renewal fee. If you have not done so please try to send it in as soon as possible.

We have sent a letter to Marian Harkin, MEP, regarding the recent 8% premium cut and the income levies. This letter is available on our website or you can contact Anne for a copy.

We would like to know how many members were cut or increased acreage and premium due to the electronic mapping system. Please send your name, contract number and details of acreage changed to Anne - this information will be treated in confidence.

Farm Forestry - A Growth Sector rooted in rural Ireland, in these recessionary times!!!

John Jackson Chairman

## ATTENTION ALL FOREST OWNERS WHO PLANTED IN 2000:

YOUR MANAGEMENT PLAN YEAR 11 TO YEAR 20 WILL HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE FOREST SERVICE BEFORE YOUR NEXT PREMIUM WILL BE PAID.  
PLEASE CONTACT ANNE ON 086 0410809 OR MEIKE ON 087 9828223 AND WE WILL ARRANGE TO HAVE YOUR PLAN COMPLETED, HASSLE FREE!

## COMMITTEE 2009 - 2010

NAME	POSITION	CONTACT NO.
JOHN JACKSON	CHAIRMAN	086 8175056
LEWIS GRIFFITH BALLYSHANNON	VICE CHAIR & FIELD OFFICER	086 7334482
JOHN COYLE	SECRETARY	086 8206714
HUGH MCGARRIGLE	JOINT TREASURER	086 8094103
CHARLIE DOHERTY	JOINT TREASURER	086 8220247
OWEN DOYLE	PRO	087 9093271
WILLIE CALLAGHAN INISHOWEN	FIELD OFFICER	087 2506640
DANNY O'DONNELL DUNGLOE	FIELD OFFICER	087 2142207
THOMAS BECHT GLENTIES	FIELD OFFICER	087 2625590
KEITH STEWART KILMACRENNAN	FIELD OFFICER	086 6006468
MICHAEL MULLIN BALLYBOFEY	FIELD OFFICER	087 6774367
LESLIE EDWARDS	MACHINERY OPERATOR	086 1036216
RAYMOND TREACY	BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE	087 2441354
ANNE MCGILL	ADMINISTRATOR	086 0410809
MEIKE SIEBEL	FORESTER	087 9828223



Back Row L to R: Lew Griffith, Hugh McGarrigle, Thomas Becht, Willie Callaghan, Owen Doyle, Leslie Edwards  
Front Row L to R: Charlie Doherty, John Jackson, Meike Siebel Forester, Anne McGill Administrator, Raymond Treacy, John Coyle  
Missing from photo: Michael Mullin, Keith Stewart, Danny O'Donnell

## The Inventory Project of the Donegal Woodland Owners Society Ltd.

by Meike Siebel – registered Forester with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food

### Background

The DWOSL has committed to facilitate an ongoing inventory of members' timber which is approaching thinning or harvesting stage. Initiated by a successfully finished 90 ha inventory project during a diploma thesis (a summary is available in the Spring Newsletter 2009) under assistance of TEAGASC and the University of Applied Forest Sciences, Rottenburg, Germany. This current inventory project is part funded by Donegal Local Development Company ("DLDC").

## Objectives

This financial support together with funds and voluntary support from Donegal Woodland Owners Society Limited (“DWOSL”) and its members will be used towards educating and thereby empowering the private woodland owner to:

- understand how and why a regular inventory is beneficial to forest management
- practically equip him/her with the necessary skills (e.g. how an inventory is carried out, when is the right time to carry it out, how to interpret the results)

Investment has been made into necessary equipment, including height and diameter measurement tools, safety equipment and a geographical information system (GIS), which is used to store the assessed data and update existing maps for more efficient management.

The DWOSL is now employing a registered forester. The forester's responsibilities in this project include:

- finding suitable forest stands that are close to first thinning age (see Table 1)
- assessing the growing stock and the amount of timber which could be harvested during a first thinning according to general Irish practices.
- putting the assessed data into a GIS for presentation and administration
- providing the forest owner with key figures of his/her forest stand to base management decisions on, such as mean annual increment, common annual increment and yield class of the site.

## Implementation

The Inventory is now in full progress. Measurement equipment has been purchased and field visits are ongoing to forest stands, some where the forest owner is unsure if his/her woodland is ready or suitable for thinning/inventory. This can be verified by the owner themselves using the proposed statements (table 1):

**Table 1: IS THE FOREST STAND READY FOR THINNING / A FIRST INVENTORY?**

The trees:	
a) have closed in/ there is little or no space between the branches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) there is still a lot of space between the branches of two trees	<b>wait</b>
c) have dead branches up to at least 2 metres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) have dead branches up to less than 1 metres	<b>wait</b>
e) the green crown is less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the tree	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) the green crown still takes up more than $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the tree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) have already been windblown at the edges of the stand	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) have not been windblown anywhere	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) grow vigorously	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) are stunted	<input type="checkbox"/> / <b>wait</b>



ready for thinning

**wait**

not ready for thinning yet



thinning is not advisable/ just a very moderate thinning possible, because stand stability is low or the stand past its thinning age



thinning is not advisable

The inventory is still open to all woodland owners in Donegal. If the forest owner is not sure if his/her plantation is suitable/ready for thinning and a first inventory he/she can contact their local DWOSL field officer or myself, Meike Siebel at 087 9828223 or forester.dwosl@gmail.com

Within the scope of this inventory project an introduction to “Inventory and Thinning practices and procedures for private woodland owners” will be given on Saturday, 19th

September 2009. This seminar is open to all members as well as all other interested woodland owners in Donegal.

First general practices and procedures are explained in an open classroom setting, with emphasis on their practical application and understandability, followed by a practical field excursion in the afternoon, where forest owners get a hands on experience in measuring tree volume. Furthermore the machinery and wood processing equipment of the Donegal Woodland Owners Society Ltd is presented.

A summary of the inventory results will be given at a separate event in late October (see Homepage for details: [www.donegalwoodlandowners.com](http://www.donegalwoodlandowners.com)).

For further information on this event please contact Anne on 086 0410809 or Meike on 087 9828223.

**Please text your name and contact number to Anne on 086 0410809 if you wish to attend.**

**WEBSITE:** [www.donegalwoodlandowners.com](http://www.donegalwoodlandowners.com)

Have you visited our website yet? You can order firewood, avail of forestry services and read our recent articles: Introduction to Deer and Deer Management in Ireland (Part 1) and Forest Fungi in Ireland. Have a browse and let us know what you think - you can send comments and suggestions by filling out the Contact page online.

## Swedish Forestry Fair Study Trip ElmiaWood 3 – 6 June 2009

The Donegal Woodland Owners Society was well represented at the world's largest International Forestry Trade Fair outside Jonkoping, Sweden. For four days seven members covered both massive sites on Small Scale Farm Forestry and Large Scale Forestry. With over 900 trade stands displaying the latest new products, forest machinery and wood for energy demonstrations, some deals were done, contacts made and experiences compared. The socialising was grand also; we will definitely be back on the 5-8 June 2013 if we are still upright.



**REMINDER: PLEASE SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FEE IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL ON 19TH SEPTEMBER 2009!**

Newsletter produced with the kind assistance of Teagasc's Forestry Development Unit and Donegal County Council

