

DWOSL NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012

DWOSL AGM, LEADER and WOOD ENERGY Update

The Annual General Meeting of the Donegal Woodland Owners Society Limited will be held on Saturday 31st of March 2012 at Highlands Hotel, Main Street, Glenties, Co. Donegal at 2pm.

Progress is being made on the DWOSL Leader Project. Members will be informed at the AGM on the progress of this very ambitious and detailed project.

The DWOSL Committee are confident that DWOSL will enter the wood energy (gasification) market very shortly. Discussions with various businesses are at an advanced stage. Background work is ongoing and again DWOSL members will be given a detailed account of progress to date at the 2012 AGM of DWOSL in Glenties.

Both the LEADER and the WOOD ENERGY PROJECT will have to be pre-financed by DWOSL, then completed to the satisfaction of all parties, before any co-funding grant money can be drawn down.

In 2009 the DWOSL Committee pre-financed the 2009 DWOSL LEADER Project by borrowing €31,000 from members of the DWOSL Committee, on an interest free basis. This money was repaid in full at the completion of the project.

It is the intention of the DWOSL Committee to inform and invite DWOSL members who may wish to invest in both the LEADER and WOOD ENERGY PROJECTS.

A rate of interest on the money loaned by DWOSL members for the projects is to be decided at the 2012 AGM.

The DWOSL Committee are confident that both the LEADER and WOOD ENERGY PROJECTS will be of immense benefit to members of DWOSL and their forests into the future.

Now is the time to invest and build on our past experiences.



Donegal Recipients of the RDS Farm Forestry Awards: (From Left to Right) Tony Finnerty, Coillte, Seamus Dunne, Forest Service, John Jackson recipient of the Special Judges Award, Shane McEntee, Minister of State with responsibility for Forestry, Ross & Annie Buchanan, Best New Entrants in the Farm Forestry Category and recipients of a RDS Certificate of Merit, Martin Regan, Forest Service and Fonsie Mealy, RDS President.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2012 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ?

It was agreed at the 2010 AGM to make the renewal date for membership of the Donegal Woodland Owners Society Limited the last day of March each year. **ANY QUERIES PHONE ADMIN DWOS 086 0410809**

Chairman's Message

2012 – For Growth and Jobs let Farm Forestry flourish NOW.

Farm forestry provides both jobs and growth. This sector can, and must, double in size. Today Donegal Woodland Owner's Society is trading in timber and firewood, providing training, forest management services and creating jobs within Donegal.

The demand for timber is rising, and oil is now being displaced by home grown timber in the energy market, so money is circulating locally.

Farm forest owners in Donegal now realise that we have to take control of our product – timber, to add value to it and our forests. This in turn creates much needed employment and stimulates the local and national economy.

The obstacles to the further development of the Farm Forestry sector are well documented but are not being addressed. The continual closing down of vast upland areas to forestry on biased environmental grounds has gone unchallenged and is getting even more severe. The wildfires of 2010 and 2011 in Ireland's upland areas are a prime example of an environmental policy disaster. This is following the upland fire pattern throughout the EU in the so called "Protected Areas".

The push now is to plant better quality agriculture land - that is easier, but good land is needed for food production. Look at the planting levels over two, nine year periods for Donegal. From 1993 to 2001 there were 12,764 hectares of new forests planted, an average of 1,419 hectares per year.

In the last 9 years 2002 to 2010 there were 3,027 hectares of new Donegal forests planted, an average of 336 hectares per year. This is a loss to Donegal of 1083 hectares of new forests per year, a €4 million per year loss to Donegal of forest grants and premiums alone; the value of the timber would be multiples of this. So much for job creation and regional balance.

The future of the Irish Forest industry is mainly in the hands of our Government. Poor leadership is very evident. Our Semi State Forestry Company, Coillte has planted just 4 hectares in Ireland in 2010 and there are rumours that the State is in the process of leasing out the right to grow trees on its lands to outside investors.

At the same time the private farm forestry sector is facing the lowering of afforestation targets and the continual closure of lands to forestry. The private forestry sector demands the right to invest in sustainable growth, jobs and climate positive forestry. Donegal and Ireland deserve better – this green growth sector must be allowed to flourish.

John Jackson, Chairman of the Donegal Woodlands Society Limited.

DWOSL LEADER PROJECT 2012

Post Harvest Training for Woodland Owners

Once co funding for the above Leader project is approved DWOSL intend to organise 7 training Lectures and 5 Field days, each at 2 different locations in North and South Donegal. Also included in the project will be NPTC chainsaw courses for 20 participants and on site consultation with woodland owners at their forest.

This course is aimed to train Donegal Woodland Owners in the post felling, harvesting, processing, marketing, branding and the logistic of wood processing and distribution.

***** NOTICE: THE DWOSL AGM 2012 *****

ON SATURDAY 31ST OF MARCH 2012 AT 2PM

HIGHLANDS HOTEL, MAIN STREET, GLENTIES, CO DONEGAL, PHONE: 074-9551111

MEMBERS WHO WISH TO HAVE DINNER THAT EVENING IN THE HOTEL CAN BOOK WHEN REGISTERING FOR THE AGM.

SPECIAL DWOSL MEMBERS RATE FOR B & B IN THE HOTEL IS €40 PER PERSON.

ESCO – Update (Public Service Buildings, Private Nursing Homes)

by Thomas Becht



While DWOSL has provided all information needed for Donegal County Council and independent Energy Consultants verified and confirmed to Donegal County Council the data we provided, it is now the situation, that Donegal County Council will have to put the ESCO-Contract to Public Tender. Public Tender is a slow process and it now seems that DWOSL may not be entitled to participate in this process as our financial turnover is at present too low.

In short words: The Project is on hold!

However, we did not lay all our eggs in one Basket.

Over the last year, we also intensively approached Private Nursing Homes and other, targeted, large building owners with a proposal to enter an ESCO-Contract with them to supply the

required heat and it is now the case that we are well advanced in securing up to three heat supply contracts.

The development of the ESCO-Project has reached a stage, where we have entered negotiations with suitable wood gasification manufacturers in order to buy up to four wood gasification systems at once, and therefore achieve a discounted price.

It is our intention to develop the ESCO business during the next two years to up to five to 10 installations; we intend to form a close business relationship with the manufacturers of the wood gasification boilers

We members of DWOSL will have to pre-finance the installation costs of these heating systems.

Results from our visit to this year's Irish Ploughing Championship:

We met representatives of Finol Oil Company, 3 Stanaway Drive, Crumlin, Dublin 12.

“Finol Oils Ltd has been marketing and distributing lubricants for the past three decades. Finol has been the forerunner in lubricating oils and greases throughout the Republic of Ireland. We focus on the customer need and develop a strategy to suit their particular requirements.

We continue to strive for excellence through selling and delivering the most technically proven products for the Automotive, Commercial, Agricultural and Industrial markets. Our professional sales team are constantly being kept up to date on all aspects of new product development. Our experienced office personnel are always happy to assist you in finding the correct lubricant to suit your needs in the most efficient manner. Our warehouse and transport personnel will continually monitor your delivery from order receipt to arrival at your premises.

Finol have been a partner with Total, the fourth largest oil company in the world since our inception, selling and marketing the Total, Fina and Elf brands. These big name brands carry the recommendation and approval of many OEM's including Peugeot, Citroen, Renault, Mazda, Nissan and many more.”

They offered us the following reduced prices for their Oils.

This is only a selection of the most commonly used oils in agriculture and forestry. If you use any other type of oil feel free to contact DWOSL and we will request from Finol a discounted price for our group members.

DWOSL Sale Pricelist per Drum or Barrel, excluding VAT

Mineral Oils:	1xBarrel 200 l	1xDrum 20 l	2xDrum 20 l	6xDrum 20 l	3xDrum 5 l
Elf Agri Multipurpose 15W30	€0.00	€45.31	€43.01	€40.25	€0.00
Elf Super Universal 10W30	€0.00	€48.88	€46.23	€43.70	€0.00
Elf Hydraulic LZ 32/46	€0.00	€35.88	€35.88	€35.88	€0.00
Elf performance Super D 15W40	€445.51	€45.08	€45.08	€38.32	€0.00
Chainsaw Oil	€0.00	€42.55	€40.25	€39.10	€0.00
BF 16 (back end)	€0.00	€55.20	€51.75	€49.45	€0.00
Elf gear Oil 80W90	€0.00	€51.98	€49.45	€47.15	€0.00
Power Lub Hydraulic Oil (Fighting Grade)	€253.00	€30.59	€28.29	€25.30	€0.00
Biodegradable Oils:					
BIOHYDRAN Hydraulic Oil	€798.10	€85.79	€80.50	€75.90	€0.00
BIO Chainsaw Oil 100, 160	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€71.30
Grease Biomultis EP 2 (24x400gr.)	€41.63	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00

See all products @: WWW.FINOL.IE

What is Continuous Cover Forestry?

Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) is a term used to describe forest management methods which maintain continuous woodland conditions, rather than periodically removing whole crops of trees as clearfelling systems do. In other words, the next tree generation will already be established when the old one is harvested.

There are several synonyms for Continuous Cover Forestry, with "Low Impact Silvicultural Systems" (LISS), "Permanent Forest", "Alternatives to Clearfelling", and "Dauerwald" (German for continuous forest) being the most commonly used.

The concept of CCF has a long history, particularly in continental Europe. Some forms of CCF management had been practised for centuries before an accepted term and a corresponding definition of "Continuous Cover Forestry" were agreed upon. While CCF ideas rose to prominence in the late 19th and early 20th century and suffered a decline thereafter, they have recently gained more importance again within the context of forest decline, restoration, and timber certification.

The aim of CCF is to maintain continuous woodland conditions. Primarily this is done by manipulating the over-storey through removal of individual trees or small groups, thus controlling the light regime allowing natural regeneration to occur, without detrimental weed growth. This gives rise to an uneven aged mixed woodland, where all age classes of tree co-exist within one forest stand. Implicit to this form of management is the favouring of native broadleaves and the reduction of exotic coniferous species. There may also be financial benefits such as savings on planting and pruning costs.

The UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (Forestry Commission, 2000) includes a number of requirements that promote a shift away from even-aged plantation forestry and clearfelling systems. The trend towards low-impact silvicultural systems is also reflected in the separate woodland strategies for England, Scotland and Wales.

Woodlands for Wales (Forestry Commission, 2001) expresses the strongest commitment to CCF, aiming "to convert at least half of the National Assembly woodlands to continuous cover over the next 20 years, where practical, and encourage conversion in similar private sector woodlands."

What are the advantages of CCF?

Across most parts of Europe CCF is believed to be a woodland management type that contributes to sustainable forestry not only in terms of timber production but also with respect to nature conservation and the promotion of the recreational and landscape value of woodlands. CCF has economical, ecological and cultural implications:

- CCF uses natural processes for forest management to a greater extent than clearfelling systems. In doing so, it creates more stable and more diverse woodland ecosystems.
- Natural regeneration is used as the main stand establishment method. The further growth of the regeneration is then controlled by interventions in the overstorey. This saves on planting and tending costs.
- Timber production focuses on higher value timber and larger tree dimensions. This makes harvesting more efficient. Due to the enhanced stand stability the risk of major disturbances to timber production (e.g. through windthrows) is lower.
- Maintaining a permanent tree cover means that the soil is never exposed and left to erosion by wind and water.
- CCF is usually associated with greater biodiversity as often more than just one target tree species is involved, and the complex stand structure leaves niches for additional species and facilitates the incorporation of "old growth" features.
- Abandoning clearfelling practice means that major disruptions to the landscape are avoided. By enhancing structural and species diversity CCF creates attractive woodlands for visitors.

Due to the more complex stand structure, CCF requires higher skills from forest managers as well as forest workers. It will never replace clearfelling practice completely, but where practical it will make our forests more diverse, stable, productive, and therefore valuable environments.



*****NEW ADVANCED BUY & SELL SECTION*****

ON DWOSL WEBSITE: WWW.DONEGALWOODLANDOWNERS.COM

DWOSL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO EMAIL THEIR ITEMS TO: FORESTER.DWOSL@GMAIL.COM

VEGETABLE OIL FOR LUBRICATING CHAIN SAWS

by Thomas Becht

Introduction

To work properly, chainsaw chains and bars must be lubricated. In the past, most operators have used petroleum-based oils. When a chain saw is used, virtually all of the lubricant ends up in the environment. Every year thousands of gallons of chain-and-bar oil are carried into the forests and none returns.

The demand for environmentally acceptable products is growing rapidly. There is increased concern about the influence of petroleum-based oils on the environment. Also, exposure to petroleum-based oils can have adverse health effects on users. One potential alternative is the use of “environmentally compatible” or “enviro-friendly” oils that are produced from vegetables.

To achieve this classification, an oil must be nontoxic and must biodegrade rapidly if spilled. Rapeseed-based (usually called canola) oil is currently the most common environmentally compatible chain-and-bar lubricant.

Background

Vegetable-based oils are triglycerides or natural esters that come from agricultural crops. These oils are natural products and therefore their chemical composition varies somewhat from one crop to another. They have some undesirable characteristics. Their cold-temperature properties and oxidation stability are their main disadvantages compared to petroleum-based oil, and additives are needed to overcome these problems. Vegetable oils have many good natural properties including good lubricity, good resistance to shear, a high flash point, and a high viscosity index. Vegetable oils vary in price but, in general, are about twice as expensive as petroleum-based oils.

Modern vegetable-based lubricants first appeared in the marketplace in Europe in the mid-1980s. The acceptance and use of these products, particularly in the European forest industry, is widespread and growing. The two main reasons for this are concerns about workers' occupational safety and health and environmental protection.

Petroleum-based oils are known carcinogens and medical records show that they cause discomforting eczema and oil acne. In addition, prolonged exposure to petroleum-based-oil mist can cause irritation of the respiratory tract. Environmental damage caused by petroleum-based oil spills has had extensive attention from the media.

The benefits of using vegetable oils are well known in Germany, where there are about 80 brands available, and in the Scandinavian countries. In Austria, all petroleum-based chain saw oils are banned. The Coordinating European Council (CEC) has established a test methodology for bio-degradability. This test standard (CEC-L-33-T-82) measures the amount of oil that biodegrades over a 21-day period. (Cautionary Note: Some products show CEC on their product labels and all this means is that the products contain some portion of bio-degradable material. They may still contain mineral oils or mineral-based additives. It is best to find out what percentage of the total product will biodegrade in 21 days.)

Readily biodegradable, petroleum-free lubricants based on canola oil—including hydraulic fluids, greases, motor oils, concrete release oils, two-cycle oils, and chainsaw-oils are now available commercially in North America. Canola oil is a renewable, sustainable farm product. Manufacturers claim that these products are rapidly bio-degradable, nontoxic to the environment, and safe for operators and mechanics.

Canola-based chain-and-bar oil has been extensively tested in Europe. It has excellent lubricating properties and some studies have shown up to 40 percent reduction in consumption without sacrificing bar-and-chain life. Most high quality or “professional” chain saws have sophisticated chain oilers that are more efficient and have the capability of controlling the amount of oil being used. Manufacturers and some users claim that there is a potential for extended bar-and-chain life when using canola-based products because it lubricates and adheres to metal better than petroleum-based oils.

Canola-based chain oils have low vapour pressure, which reduces inhalation of fumes by users. Its composition is similar to human skin oil and this can reduce skin irritation and eczema for operators and mechanics. Tests have shown that canola-based chain oils provide good performance down to -13 degrees F but storage can affect the pour point temperature (they may not pour easily after standing for several days at -22 degrees F). Generally, vegetable-based oils have higher flash points than petroleum-based products.

FERIC STUDY

The Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada (FERIC) tested and reported on field trials of vegetable-based oil for lubricating chain saws. They conducted two trials, one with chain saws on a conventional manual falling operation and the other with chain saws on Rottne single- and double-grip harvesters on a shortwood mechanical harvesting operation. The climatic conditions on the two tests were different as the hand felling took place in a wet, temperate Coastal rain forest while the mechanical harvesting took place in sub-zero temperatures.

Both trials used an oil called Binol that is produced in Sweden by Karlshamns AB. This chain oil is canola-based with additives, and the manufacturer claims that the product (oil and additives) is non-toxic and biodegradable (degrading 97 percent in 21 days.)

The overall results were positive. Users reported that the vegetable-based oil was easier to clean from clothes and equipment. Users also experienced less skin irritation. Rottne harvester operators noticed a significant reduction in the oil mist that collects on the machines' windows due both to the cleanliness of the Binol compared to petroleum-based oil and to the reduced consumption of oil. The operators claimed a 60 percent reduction in consumption; however, the manufacturer does not claim such a large reduction. They also claimed that Binol increased the life of the bar-and-chain, but the hand fellers reported no noticeable change. The coldest temperature during the trial was - 13 degrees F, and there were no lubrication-related failures.

The vegetable-based oil performed satisfactorily in both trials. FERIC reported that Binol costs about twice as much as mineral oil, but when taking into account the manufacturer's claim of a 40-percent reduction in consumption, the cost increase over mineral oil is around 20 percent. FERIC noted that the potential for extended bar-and-chain life may offset this cost. The report concluded that even with the increased cost, the benefits for workers and the environment make vegetable-based oils an attractive alternative.

FOREST SERVICE FIELD TRIAL

A limited field trial of three vegetable-based chain oils was conducted by Winston Rall on the Wind River Ranger District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, southwest Washington State, US.

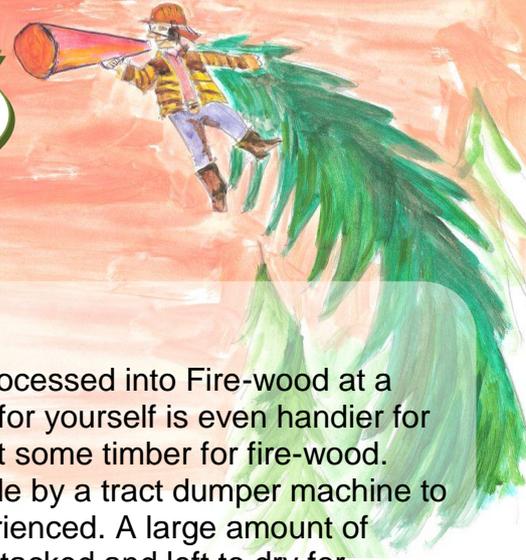
Rall has a great deal of interest in and experience with chainsaws and is the lead instructor for chainsaw training and certification in this Region. He tried vegetable-based products from Greenland Corporation, Green Oil Company, and Stihl, Incorporated.

All of the vegetable-based oils performed adequately in these limited field trials. While these trials were by no means scientific studies, some opinions from an experienced sawyer are worth noting. Starting with a new bar and chain, Rall could see no difference in the amount of wear shown on these components (and after using one of the vegetable-based oils, he felt that the bar showed more wear than expected). He noted that the oil was difficult to see - good for aesthetics and the environment, but somewhat disconcerting for the operator.

Rall would not recommend using these products in a fire situation such as bucking burning logs because it appeared that the oil comes off or evaporates in extremely hot conditions (Petroleum-based oils also have problems in these conditions). Rall was pleased that he saw no oil sheen "rainbows" in puddles or rainy weather and that the oil was less noticeable following cutting operations.

Rall recommends using these products, particularly when environmental protection is important, in work such as streamside restoration, and in areas where aesthetics are a concern, such as public recreation sites and hiking trails. Please bear in mind that these observations and opinions are based on very limited field trials.

Shouting from the Tree Tops



STOLEN TIMBER

A word of warning to all members who thin and extract timber to be processed into Fire-wood at a later date, be careful where you stack it for drying, for where is handy for yourself is even handier for the Thief. In early December I had a selective thinning done to harvest some timber for fire-wood. This timber was cut into 2 metre lengths to be removed to the road-side by a tract dumper machine to minimize the ground damage due to all the bad weather we had experienced. A large amount of timber was removed from the forest and taken to the road-side to be stacked and left to dry for processing at a later date. Within two days of the timber arriving at the road-side a good amount of the timber was stolen by opportunist thieves who had noticed the work going on and then decided to steal the wood at the first opportunity. This meant working at night as the road is fairly busy during the day, therefore too many witnesses. The amount of timber that was stolen may be small to some people but it involved a large expense and a lot of hard work to get it to the road-side. The remaining timber has now been removed from the road-side to prevent any more theft.

"Be on guard. It is the policy of DWOSL that when DWOSL buys or markets members timber that a DWOSL worker is on site to supervise, photograph and track the removal of the timber. To date DWOSL are satisfied with the supervision, tracking aids and procedures that are in place. As the member states "...too much time, effort and money has been invested in the timber to get it to roadside only to have it stolen!!!".

UPCOMING EVENTS

Once the 2012 DWOSL Leader has been passed a series of field days and class room sessions will be announced. Also please check the homepage: www.donegalwoodlandowners.com for upcoming events.

MATERNITY LEAVE

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR DWOSL FORESTER MEIKE SIEBEL IS BACK FROM HER MATERNITY LEAVE FROM THE 9TH APRIL 2012. FOR FORESTRY RELATED QUERIES PHONE FORESTER DWOSL 087 9828223

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