

Small Woodland Owners' Group

To aid the enjoyment, diversity and conservation of British Woodland
www.woodlands.co.uk/swog

Newsletter October 2008

All SWOG events are free of charge unless otherwise stated.
The Small Woodland Owners Group is co-supported and sponsored by Woodlands.co.uk

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Page 1: Welcome

Page 2: SWOG meeting on bats, conservation and responsibilities

Page 3: Discussion from the website: planning issues

Page 4: Training and events

Page 7: Being creative with woodland products

Page 8: Woodland birds at Scrag Copse

Page 9: Charcoal making with Sean and Sarah!

More articles and photos required for the next newsletter, please email or call Tracy if you could contribute something. tracy@woodlands.co.uk 07930 589 508



SWOG Meeting Simply Bats! (and a lot of other stuff!)

8th November 2008 9:45 am – 4:00pm
Woodland Enterprise Centre,
Flimwell, East Sussex

Including:

An hour with David and Sheila from Batbox

- Bat types and habitat
- Echo location
- Foreign bats
- Legislation
- Leaflets and further info about bats
- Info about Bat Box's
- And real live bats to look at too!

Patrick Roper on

'To coppice or not to coppice: some conservation controversies'

Patrick has worked as a consultant ecologist since 1993 and works closely with the Woodland Trust on management plans. Patrick manages the Rare Species Inventory for the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre in a professional capacity and has appeared on wildlife programmes on radio and television on many occasions including the national 2007 and 2008 Springwatch on BBC television.

His most amazing feat is that he has studied the wild service tree, *Sorbus torminalis*, for over 30 years!!

Fiona Tooth talks on

'Bang to Rights' Rights and responsibilities of owning woodland and Q and A.

Fiona says: 'I have a Foundation Degree (equivalent of the old HND) in Forestry & Woodland Management with the emphasis on science and ecology. I was awarded the top student prize and came out with a Distinction, which I regard as a feat! I retired from making prototype and short series contemporary furniture in 2001 and have been immersed in all matter connected with wood since then. I am a very proud grandmother. I'm working to foster the renewal of sustainable rural communities and a deeper understanding of our relationship with nature. I see myself as the custodian of my woodland not just the owner. Oh, and I'm lovely. ' (will she notice that I left that in?)

There is also a request for us to bring our best tools and five tips each, and there will be a woodland boot sale opportunity – bring and buy!

Let me know if you are coming
tracy@woodlands.co.uk

Discussion from the Website Issues with planning

www.woodlands.co.uk/swog

Samantha:

We have been asked by the local authority to remove a tent and caravan that we have in a sheltered part of our wood. Their reasoning is that these constitute being classed as structures and fall within planning law. We have the tent and caravan to enable us to work throughout the winter months coppicing and charcoal burning.

Does anyone else have experience of local authorities and what they class as a structure?

Binz:

This from an article at

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/buying-a-wood/planning-and-woodlands.php>

"Provided the caravan is not for residential use, it falls completely outside planning controls, and you do not need to ask the planning authority in advance. According to the Caravan Sites Act 1968, the legal definition of a caravan includes mobile homes and self-built structures. Under this definition, there is no necessity for the caravan to have wheels, as long as it is under the size limit (60 feet long, 20 feet wide and 10 feet high), can be delivered in no more than two sections by lorry, and is capable of being moved in one piece along a road when assembled."

Tracy:

I would also approach your Forestry commission officer. If you have a felling application in, then they know you are going to do work in your wood - and that gives a lot of help - I think! As far as I know, the council planners ask the FC for their thoughts in the situation...

other reading:

<http://www.smallwoods.org.uk/files/9%20-%20Smallwoods%20Mag%20merged.pdf>

http://www.woods4sale.co.uk/planning_system.htm

- the second one says caravans are allowed for storage!

DaveTaz:

I asked our planning officer in North Wales about siting a caravan in our wood and all she did was repeat that we didn't need planning permission providing it wasn't used for living in! I have seen Binz's article before and everyone seems to agree with it. Sounds like you have an awkward planning department but i would contest their authority. The only other problem may be if your woodland is under 5 acres as I think this may make a difference with regard to siting a caravan. I have also read that you are normally allowed to keep up to 3 caravans with out needing permission but you may not stay in any one of them for more than 28 nights in the course of a year. Hope this is of some use.

Maybe this would be a suitable article/discussion to have in the new Living Wood magazine so that it can be made clear to us all, possibly with assistance from a planning officer!



Netherfield centre courses
www.thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk

3rd & 4th November (tbc)	Post & Rail Fencing (2 days) A practical hands on course, covering equipment, tools and techniques; learn how to set uprights on the ground and fix rails	£120
Friday 14 th November	Hedge Laying A practical course, by the end of which you will have laid a section of hedge. Covers tools, clearing, pleaching, stakes and binders.	£60
Friday 28 th November	Hedge Laying	£60
Friday 6th February	Hedge Laying	£60





Woodland Enterprise Centre, Flimwell, East Sussex

Date	Course	Cost	Description
22/11/08	Woodland Archaeology	£30	Learn to Identify archaeological features that have been protected by the presence of woodland. Understand why woodlands are not recognised as very important archaeological landscapes. Suitable for general interest, woodland owners, foresters, coppice cutters, woodland managers, people involved in community woodlands etc.
05/12/08	Make a rustic bird table	£75	Choose the correct wood for a bird table, harvest your own tree and make a bird table to take home, with the expert guidance of John Waller
24/11/08	Forestry First Aid	£70	First aid is a valuable life skill and is a requirement by law in the workplace. Vital First Aid Ltd provides appointed person courses to HSE guidelines, tailored to the specific needs of those working in the woods and of the woodland industry. All our trainers are experienced, qualified and professional. Course attendees will receive a certificate and booklet.
2/12/08	Introduction to using wood fuel for heating	£40	A broad perspective on wood fuel will be covered including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The market for wood fuel, and its current and future development • Availability and capacity of wood fuel resource • Wood fuel supply chain • Set up, storage, processing, handling • Standards, contracting & red-tape • The opportunity for small producers • Grants and eligibility • Practical considerations for biomass heating
14 th March, 25 th April, 9 th May, 13 th June 2009	Managing woodland for Biodiversity	Apprx £60 per day	Patrick Roper, consultant Ecologist, is developing a 4 day course, including woodland types, flora, fauna and management planning. Please email me if you are interested in knowing more. Price to be confirmed

Contact Ruth for more information and a booking form

training@woodnet.org.uk

phone 01580 879552 (leave a message with WoodNet, Ruth will call you back)

or call the Netherfield centre: 01424 775615

www.woodnet.org.uk

Please note that due to rising costs and reduced funding, the course prices will need to increase next year.

Chainsaw courses

Chainsaw users refreshers course

John asks:

I am trying to get together a group of four people for a one day chainsaw retraining course as required for BTCV public liability insurance. Participants should already have a chainsaw license with NPTC CS30 and CS31b. The course will cost £85 per person and will be held in New England Wood, Cuckfield, on a date to be arranged between participants and the trainer.

If you are interested, please contact me by email: j_pilkington363@btinternet.com, or by telephone on 01444 482166.

Felling Small Trees: Chainsaw Course

There are some more SWOG members interested in doing this course, felling small trees and maintaining a saw. Although this course comes with a LANTRA qualification, it is assessed by the trainer, which takes some of the stress out of the course. If you are interested in chainsaw training, contact me, (Tracy) or David Rossney (esusforestry@btinternet.com)

You can also do one day chainsaw courses through the Netherfield centre, on maintenance and cross cutting.

WoodlandsTV.co.uk

Did you know that Woodlands.co.uk now have a TV station? Well, kind of – take a look at

<http://www.woodlandstv.co.uk/films/>

You will find short films on gateposts, chainsaw sharpening, weaving, making spoons and much, much more!

Adding Value to Wood Products: A guide for Coppice Workers

By John Waller

<http://www.underwoodsman.co.uk>

Making woodlands pay for themselves is a vital part to ensuring their future. If the trees "turn a profit", it makes a case for using the land as woodland much stronger in the future. The profit can be used to improve the woodland - by reinstating coppice cycles, thinning or opening up for education/leisure access, or whatever... thereby improving the potential profit and so the cycle continues... So much for the theory. In practice, adding value to woodland products requires a three pronged approach:

1. Keep costs down. Efficient working in felling, working up and site organisation, sorting poles and rods to end-use related piles, and extraction. All need to be clearly considered and strategies constantly applied. A site can quickly become a mess and wood requires re-sorting, using time better spent cutting more wood!
2. In order to achieve this efficiency, a thorough knowledge of what the wood will be used for is required. It can then be allotted to a pile on its first pick up in the woods – avoiding picking it up again!
3. This can only be achieved by knowledge of product design and requirement of the product user. How long to cut walking stick blanks; hedging stakes; hurdle rods etc.

If you are also the walking stick maker, hedge-layer or hurdle maker, the value added potential increases greatly.

If you can also act innovatively, turning waste in to profit is also most satisfying ...the hurdle trimmings become next year's kindling – attractively boxed or bundled. Bent sticks become chair components. Lop and top are pea sticks or faggots. Bent branch-wood becomes sculptor's raw materials.

Bird tables using short elm or chestnut pole off-cuts and oak slab-wood from milling operations are a prime example. The material cost is small, and a good design minimises labour and prioritises durability and attractiveness.

Come and make one! - on 5th December at Woodland Enterprise Centre.

Contact Ruth on training@woodnet.org.uk for more details.

You can see John on Woodlands TV, on the topic of weaving

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=xMhYYgfoaWk>

Scrag Cope update from David

Woodland Birds photography days start again this coming Sunday, so I have been increasing the bait out for the birds in the form of seed and nut feeders as well as baiting logs for woodpeckers and nuthatches. Today in the gorgeous autumn weather I was also generally tidying up around the main bird hide and re-constructing the woodpecker hide. Woodpeckers have a large fear circle, so it is generally better to try photographing them alone and obeying good hide discipline; 3 or 4 twitchy photographers is a sure way to scare off a great spotted woodpecker! Hence the separate 1-person hide. Within 5 minutes of sinking and baiting a log in front of this hide a lovely male Great Spotted was down onto the log, which certainly ensures things should be OK this coming Sunday. For the whole afternoon, as I worked, several nuthatches were also coming in to either the nut feeders or the baiting logs. Nuthatches are not very shy and I often get them just a couple of metres away as I'm re-stocking the feeders. Marsh tits are even less shy and although give way to the other larger tits will often stay until the last second as I approach.

If you are interested in learning about woodland bird photography, please visit the courses page on the website www.davidplummerimages.co.uk



Charcoal making with Sean and Sarah

Sean and Sarah have found another way to make charcoal – you may remember Mike's method? Here the pictures will tell you the story!

