

Forestry News

XVIII IUFRO WORLD CONGRESS

Takes place in Yugoslavia on 7-25 September 1986. The Congress sessions will be held at Cankayev Dom Congress and Cultural Centre in Ljubljana. After the Congress nineteen scientific excursions will be organised throughout Yugoslavia.

PINE NEEDLE BOARD

Experiments have been carried out in Jammu, India on the production of fibreboard from pine needles. A small factory has gone into production blending pine needles with straw or waste paper for the production of fruit boxes to alleviate the excessive demands on timber supplies in this part of India.

THE WOODEN ARM OF THE LAW

The policeman's baton carried by members of the Garda Síochána has traditionally been made of home-grown oak, hickory or hornbeam. Hornbeam is the favoured wood at the moment.

A standard garda baton is 38cm long with a tapering width that averages out at 3.2cm. Each of the 11,500 members of the force is issued with such a baton. In forestry terms this means that the equivalent of eight medium size hornbeam trees are carried about by the Irish police force in the course of its duties. (Information on batons kindly supplied by Garda Inspector P. Kilalea and Sergeant P. Cotter).

BRACKEN CONTROL?

A South African moth — *Parthenodes angularis* — which appears to be bracken specific may be the answer. The insect kills the plant by tunnelling through the stem. (Credit for this discovery goes to scientists at the University of York).

FACT

An *Albizzia falcata* tree growing in Malaysia reached 30.48m (100 feet) in height in five years and four months.

SILVA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TREES AND FORESTS

Paris, February 1986

Concern over desertification in Africa and forest decline in Europe lay behind President Mitterand's initiative to host one of the largest ever political gatherings to discuss the threat to trees and forests. Almost three hundred delegates, including ten Heads of State and many government ministers from twenty seven African and twenty two industrialised countries, agreed on a series of

resolutions and a Solemn Appeal aimed at reversing current trends and increasing co-operation between developed and developing countries.

The Irish delegation was headed by an Taoiseach, Dr. Garret FitzGerald, who in his address to the opening session outlined the reasons why Ireland is sensitive to the problems caused by a lack of trees and charted the progress in afforestation in this century. He also stated that whereas most of Ireland's foreign aid up to now had concentrated on rural development and educational and health programmes, it was his intention to have the possibility examined of increasing significantly the proportion going to the problems caused by deforestation.

In their Solemn Appeal the political leaders made a commitment to protect trees and forests from threats of all kinds, to fight desertification and increase tree cover, and to expand research and training and promote exchange of knowledge on forestry.

(Dr. M. Carey)

VISIT OF FORESTRY GROUP FROM CANTON, FRIBOURG, SWITZERLAND

In May 1985 the staff of the forest office of the Canton of Fribourg, Switzerland visited Ireland. The 20 members of the party and their wives were shown different aspects of Irish forestry in the east, south and west of the country. Many members of the Society participated in hosting the various stops. As a sign of appreciation for the success of the tour Dr. A. Brühlhart presented a cheque for 500 SFr. to the Society.

(Mr. J. O'Driscoll)

(The editor encourages readers to submit items of interest for inclusion in "Forestry News")