

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

At a meeting in Shell-BP House, Dublin, on 16th August 1974 Dr. Frank Convery, Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Economics, School of Forestry, Duke University, North Carolina, U.S.A., delivered a paper entitled *Concepts for Environmental Policy*.

In the first part of his paper Professor Convery discussed the necessity for change from a cowboy economy to a spaceship economy, from an economy of dynamic economic growth to a no-growth economy, or nearly, and gave examples on a world scale of damage to the environment resulting from our present system, and the likely future consequences of current development, for instance in the field of nuclear power generation.

He went on to consider two possible methods for the control and abatement of environmental pollution: residuals charges and subsidy/enforcement. The first of these envisages the levying of a charge on the pollutor related to the amount of degrade caused to the environment by the residuals released thereto, while the second would involve subsidies and tax reliefs for pollution abatement equipment together with legal enforcement of specified discharge standards. Professor Convery favoured the first method mainly on the grounds that the cost of the pollution resulting from any process would be directly reflected in the price of the product, thereby reducing the demand for that product in relation to the degree of pollution caused. He concluded with some examples of this system in operation.

OUTDOOR MEETINGS

Forest Walks

In accordance with what has now become an accepted tradition the Society's guided forest walks for members of the general public took place on the second weekend in September. While attendance on Saturday 7th was limited by rain and wind, it is estimated that 4,500 to 5,000 people attended on Sunday 8th. The walk locations and leaders were as follows:

<i>Forest</i>		<i>Leader</i>
Churchhill, Meenirroy, Co. Donegal	...	James Melia
Killygordon, Co. Donegal	...	C. Jeffers
Tardree, Co. Antrim	...	W. J. Crawford
Baronscourt, Co. Tyrone	...	C. S. Kilpatrick
Ballyfarnon, Co. Roscommon	...	M. Donnelly
Castleshane, Co. Monaghan	...	M. Dooley
Headford, Virginia, Co. Cavan	...	J. Crowley
Ballymahon, Co. Longford	...	J. Quinlivan
Mount Bellew, Co. Galway	...	J. Cronin
Breaffy, Castlebar, Co. Mayo	...	J. A. Mannion & T. de Gruineil
Union Wood, Collooney, Co. Sligo	...	J. E. Johnston & B. Moloney
Dromore, Ennis, Co. Clare	...	P. J. White
Coole Park, Gort, Co. Galway	...	T. Guilfoyle
Portumna, Co. Galway	...	P. Keane
Donadea, Co. Kildare	...	P. Crowe
Monasterevan, Co. Kildare	...	F. Fahy
Killakee, Co. Dublin	...	M. O'Brien & D. T. McAree
Glencree, Co. Wicklow	...	D. McGuire
Glenealy, Co. Wicklow	...	H. M. FitzPatrick
Stradbally, Co. Laois	...	B. J. Collins
Durrow, Co. Laois	...	L. Condon
Gorey, Co. Wexford	...	G. Murphy
Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny	...	J. Dooley
Carrickbyrne, Co. Wexford	...	J. Vaughan
Dundrum, Co. Tipperary	...	J. Hanley
Currachase, Adare, Co. Limerick	...	M. O'Donovan
Newcastle West, Co. Limerick	...	J. Costello
Muckross, Killarney, Co. Kerry	...	P. J. Bruton
Macroom, Co. Cork	...	M. F. Darcy

Curragh, Co. Cork	...	J. Ryan
Kilworth, Co. Cork	...	P. Verling
Glengarra, Co. Tipperary	...	M. Mac Giolla Coda
Mount Hillary, Co. Cork	...	M. J. Doyle

Lettercran and Kesh Forests

A meeting organised by the Northern Region was held in Lettercran forest, Co. Donegal and Kesh forest, Co. Fermanagh on Wednesday, 2nd October 1974. The leaders were Mr. Paul Hand, District Inspector, Donegal, and Mr. Peter Savill, Research Officer, Belfast. The Forestry Division, Belfast, and the Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin, facilitated members who wished to attend, resulting in an attendance of over sixty, an encouraging sign of the potential of mid-week meetings in contrast with the steadily declining attendance at Sunday meetings.

In Lettercran the subjects discussed included provenance and rooting habits of contorta pine, and nutrition of Sitka spruce on peat, and in Kesh an experiment on soil preparation for the establishment of Sitka spruce on gley soils was demonstrated and discussed.

Cratloe Forest

A meeting in Cratloe forest, Co. Clare, led by Mr. Michael O'Donovan, District Inspector, Limerick, was held on 13th October 1974. The topic for the meeting was the management of high quality conifer plantations having a wide variety of species in varying stages of development.

Clonsast Bog—Trench 14

The first plantations on Bord na Mona machine-cutaway were established in 1955 in Trench 14, Clonsast Bog, Co. Offaly. These plantations have been extended as more cutaway ground has become available, and a number of experiments are in progress. Some of the original Japanese and hybrid larch plots were thinned in the spring of 1974. The meeting, led by Mr. Michael Carey (Research Officer, Forest and Wildlife Service) saw and discussed the development of these plantations and experiments. Some of the highlights were a twenty-year-old crop of *Abies grandis* of yield class 22 (metric) with roots descending about two metres into calcareous glacial till, and a similarly aged crop of *Pinus radiata* on a deep layer of peat with a yield class of 20.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1974

COUNCIL REPORT FOR 1973

Meetings

Attendances at indoor and outdoor meetings held during the year were encouraging. One venture in particular met with great response. This was a weekend tour held on the 28th and 29th September, which combined the Annual Dinner held at the Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, with visits to Lough Key Forest Park and Drumkeeran Forest. The Guided Forest Walks, which were also held in September, were highly successful. This was due to the extensive advertising campaign launched by the Meetings Committee in the weeks preceding the Walks. The Society was honoured by the presence of both the President of Ireland and the Minister for Lands at the Forest Walks held at Glenealy and Monaghan. The Forest Walks were organised in co-operation with the Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin and the Forestry Division, Belfast and held in fifteen counties so that they were easily accessible to the public.

Council Meetings

During 1973 seven Council Meetings were held and the attendance was as follows:

Miss E. Furlong and C. B. Tottenham	7 meetings
Drs. Jack and O'Carroll, Messrs. Sharkey, F. Mulloy, J. Prior, E. Joyce and Prof. T. Clear	5 meetings
Mr. E. Larkin	4 meetings
Mr. P. Clinch	3 meetings
Dr. D. Dickson and Messrs. J. Mackin and T. O'Brien	2 meetings
Messrs. W. Dallas and G. Hipwell	0 meetings

Due to Mr. P. Clinch's posting abroad Mr. E. Larkin was co-opted as Secretary on 29th September.

Annual Study Tour

The Annual Study Tour was held in Belgium. A summary of the events of the tour are to be found in Vol. 30, No. 2 of the Journal. Our thanks are due to Professor Van Migroet and his staff who organised the itinerary and for their generous hospitality.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, on 10th March 1973, the Minutes of which are written up in Vol. 30, No. 2 of the Journal. Dr. D. A. Dickson read a very interesting paper on "Aspects of Tree Nutrition" an abstract of which appeared in *Irish Forestry* 30(2) and which has since been printed in full in "Forestry".

Library

The Council decided that since the book *The Forests of Ireland* by H. M. Fitzpatrick was in short supply, the Treasurer should place the remaining copies in the bank for safekeeping. A revision of the book is under consideration.

Society Publications

In 1973 two issues of the Journal were again published. The Council decided that the price of each issue would be increased to £0.75 from 1974. A postage and haldling charge of £0.15 would also be charged, making the total subscription rate to non-members of £1.80 per year.

The Society also published a pamphlet entitled *Why Forests?* which was circularised to all members in conjunction with the Guided Forest Walks.

New Members

The Council was pleased to record that during the year sixty new members were elected to the Society.

Examinations

The Society held its examinations for both the Woodman's and Forester's Certificates. From the four applications originally received only one candidate presented himself for the former and was successful in obtaining his certificate. The applicant who sat for the Forester's Certificate was unsuccessful.

Elections

Elections were held for the positions of Councillor Technical (three posts for the period 1974/'76 and one post for the period 1974/'75) and Councillor Associate (one post).

MINUTES OF 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 23rd MARCH 1974 IN THE SHELBOURNE HOTEL, DUBLIN

The President, Dr. W. H. Jack, in the chair, present were Miss E. Furlong, Professor T. Clear, Messrs. C. Tottenham, F. Mulloy, E. Larkin, D. McGlynn, O. V. Mooney, S. Galvin, T. McEvoy, N. O'Carroll, D. Dickson, P. Savill, J. Prior, J. Twomey, M. Swan, P. Clinch, M. Ward, E. O'Connor, N. Kavanagh.

Secretary's Business

The minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting having been published in *Irish Forestry*, Vol. 30, No. 2, were taken as read and were duly signed.

The Secretary read the Council Report for 1973, and its approval was proposed by Mr. T. McEvoy and seconded by Professor T. Clear.

Matters arising from Council Report

When questioned about the future development of the Society the President said that there had been a good reaction to the pamphlets published by the Society during the year in conjunction with the guided Forest Walks and that he hoped that this would continue. Mr. McEvoy commented on this and excellence of the pamphlets.

Mr. McGlynn asked if the Society could do anything to counteract the adverse publicity that forestry has been getting. It was the feeling of the meeting that the incoming Council should concentrate their efforts on getting more public opinion in favour of forestry and if possible to make more use of the media. It was also felt that television would be useful especially if publicity was included in farming programmes.

On the item of examinations the President said that the mechanics in setting up examinations took a great deal of work and it was very disappointing to note that very few candidates presented themselves for examinations. On the proposal of Mr. T. McEvoy and seconded by Mr. S. Galvin, it was agreed that a note should appear in the Journal urging applications to be taken seriously.

With regard to the book, *The Forests of Ireland*, the question arose as to whether the Society should update the already detailed book or produce a smaller, less detailed, soft-backed version that could be produced by a local printer. It was the feeling of the meeting that the smaller, less detailed work would be more favourable.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the abstract of Accounts and commented on the happy state of the Society's finances. A motion of appreciation to Messrs. Mulloy and McGlynn having been proposed by Mr. T. McEvoy and seconded by Dr. Jack was passed.

On the proposal of Dr. N. O'Carroll, seconded by Mr. T. McEvoy, the Society decided to place on record its appreciation of Mr. Duncan Craig who for many years acted as Hon. Auditor and did so much to keep the Society's Accounts in order.

Elections

The 1974 Council elections were confirmed as follows:

President	...	Mr. O. V. Mooney
Vice-President	...	Mr. D. McGlynn
Secretary	...	Mr. E. Larkin
Treasurer	...	Mr. F. Mulloy

Editor	...	Dr. N. O'Carroll
Business Editor	...	Mr. M. Sharkey
Hon. Auditor	...	Dr. W. H. Jack

Councillors

Technical: Mr. M. F. O'Donovan, Mr. P. S. Savill, Mr. J. J. Prior and Mr. A. Duffy.

Associate: Miss E. Furlong.

Meetings

Miss E. Furlong, Meetings Convenor, outlined the meetings programme and stated that plans for the Annual Study Tour, to be held in Mayo from 20th-24th May, with headquarters at Westport, were complete.

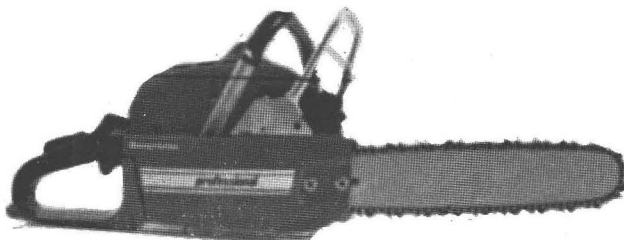
On the subject of meetings, Mr. Mulloy asked if the members wished the Society to continue with its Guided Forest Walks. In the discussion which followed it was generally agreed that the Guided Forest Walks should be an annual affair but that the walks themselves should be reduced in number and that more effort should be concentrated on the remainder. It was also agreed to consider the idea of holding some walks in areas which are conveniently reached by public transport.

Other Business

To mark the recent death of Mr. Bill Bell a minute's silence was observed. The President extended the condolences of the Society to his wife and family.

In bringing the meeting to a close the President paid tribute to the work done by the Council members during the past year.

HUSQVARNA



The professional's saw is now available in Ireland.

Send for full details to the Distributors :

Liffey Distributors Ltd.

**52B Iona Crescent,
Glasnevin,
Dublin 9.**

Telephone : 306479/306888