

## Society Activities

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1985

COUNCIL REPORT 1984

### *Symposium*

"Forestry — A National Resource" was the theme of the 1984 Symposium held at UCD on 6th April. Six papers were presented on the subject. The Symposium was attended by 190 members.

### *Annual Study Tour*

The Tour took place in Wales from 13th-19th May, a full account of which is in *Irish Forestry*, Vol. 41 (2).

### *Meetings*

A field day was held in late October in Kildare. Its theme was "Land Use Options for Midland Bogs". The day began at An Foras Taluntais Research station at Lullymore with indoor introductory talks from Mr. A. J. Cole and Dr. R. Hammond (AFT), and Mr. G. McNally (Bord na Mona) on the various options being tested on cutaway bogs. The large attendance then proceeded outdoors hoping to view a newly afforested area, which had been planted in 1983 by FWS on land leased from BNM. After an introductory talk by Dr. M. Carey on these soils in relation to potential forest production, the group had no option but to return indoors due to torrential rain. The afternoon was spent at Mr. J. Wilson-Wright's plantations at Coolcarrigan. Discussions were held on the treatment of young coastal lodgepole pine on raised bog, Christmas tree production, economics and desirability of pruning, nutritional problems, and the treatment of dense natural regeneration of lodgepole pine after fire.

A very successful evening meeting on the "Silviculture of Ash for Hurley Production" was held at UCD in December. The speakers were Mr. B. Fitzsimons of the FWS Research Branch, and Mr. P. Staunton, a hurley manufacturer from Ashford, Co. Wicklow.

The Society wishes to thank those who presented papers at the Symposium, all those who helped in organising the field day and evening meetings. Special thanks are extended to the Institute of Chartered Foresters who were extremely helpful in organising the Annual Study Tour in Wales. Thanks are also due to the Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin, the Northern Ireland Forest Service and University College Dublin, for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

### *Annual General Meeting*

The AGM was held at UCD on 5th April. The Minutes were published in *Irish Forestry*, Vol. 41 (1).

### *Forestry Walks*

Council decided not to hold walks in 1984 and to review the situation for a year.

### *Publications*

*Irish Forestry* Vol. 41 (1 and 2) was published.

The *Forests of Ireland* (second edition) edited by Dr. N. O Carroll was published in November. Mr. Sean MacBride, Honorary Member of the Society, launched the book. The other three Honorary Members were present.

*Examinations*

No candidates sat for examinations.

*Henry Memorial Plot (Avondale)*

Future development of the plot is still under consideration.

*Educational Award Fund*

One of the two prizes of £100 worth of forestry books was awarded for the first time. Mr. J. Galligan of Bray was the UCD recipient. The name of the winning Kinnitty student has not yet been announced.

*Overseas Development Group*

The Group held a meeting in UCD on 13th October organised by R. Keogh and chaired by Dr. T. Farrell. Present at the meeting were representatives from the All Party Committee on Development, Department of Foreign of Foreign Affairs, Semi-State Organisations, the Universities and 'Third World' relief agencies. Dr. L. Roche, President of the International Union of Societies of Foresters also attended.

The problems of tropical deforestation were discussed. The exchange of views that followed was extremely valuable in clarifying the need for forestry expertise in developing countries, as well as the difficulties for Irish forestry personnel in spending time abroad. The meeting concluded with the general agreement that a new effort be made to encourage greater participation by Irish institutions and Irish foresters in the development of forestry in Third World Countries.

*Review Group on Forestry*

The Council made a submission on behalf of the Society to the Review Group which was set up in November, 1984.

*Elections*

The post of President and three posts of Technical Councillor were filled by election. Because one of the existing Councillors became Vice-President, another Technical Councillor, was elected for a one year term. As there was one candidate only for the remaining posts these were filled without election. The total poll in the 1984 election was 225.

*Membership*

Number of members at 31st December 1984:

<i>Technical</i>	<i>Associate</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Total</i>
466	109	36	611
New members elected in 1984:			
7	11	4	22

We note with regret the deaths of the following members: Mr. D. Carroll, Mr. O. Cowman, Mr. P. Flynn, Mr. T. McEvoy, Mr. T. Moyhian.

*Attendance at Council Meetings*

6 Council meetings were held during the year. Attendance at the meetings was as follows:

E. P. Farrell, J. Fennessy, L. Furlong, E. Griffin, E. Hendrick .....	6 meetings
M. O'Brien, J. O'Driscoll .....	5 meetings
J. Gardiner, N. O'Carroll, J. Prior, P. Raftery .....	4 meetings
D. Ward .....	3 meetings
E. Morrisey .....	1 meeting
C. Farmer, P. Glennon .....	0 meetings

J. Gardiner and D. Ward could not have been present at two of the meetings due to being abroad.

Signed: E. GRIFFIN,  
Hon. Secretary.

March, 1985

MINUTES OF THE 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, 28th MARCH, 1985  
AGRICULTURE BUILDING, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, BELFIELD,  
DUBLIN 4.

*Attendance*

The outgoing President Dr. N. O'Carroll took the chair.

*Present were:* D. Mangan, E. Hendrick, J. Prior, J. Connelly, E. Griffin, F. O'Dea, J. Griffin, C. O'Carroll, B. Lacey, F. Mulloy, D. Ward, J. Fennessy, R. Keogh, J. Gardiner, M. Carey, L. Furlong, P. Joyce, J. O'Driscoll, M. O'Brien, B. Fitzsimons, J. Dillon, L. P. O'Flanagan, P. Raftery.

*Apologies:* C. Kilpatrick, D. McAree, J. Phillips.

*Secretary's Business*

The Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting, having already been circulated to members, were agreed and signed by the President.

*Matters Arising from Minutes*

The President noted that due to a typing error, Louise O'Reilly, the first girl recipient of the Foresters Certificate, had been referred to as Mr. L. O'Reilly in the Minutes which had appeared in 'Irish Forestry'. The Editor will put an erratum in the next issue.

M. Carey raised the question of decentralisation of Society Meetings and Symposia — it seemed that the Dublin/Bray members are too well represented on the Council. The President replied that these points had been discussed by Council and action has been taken in that a meeting held in Dublin before Christmas is to be repeated in Limerick later this year. Council had decided not to change the current year's Symposium out of Dublin. The President said that Regional Groups could be established quite easily by interested people, and that one of them could in turn elect to host and organise the Annual Symposium. M. O'Brien said that generally local people were unwilling to organise meetings. J. O'Driscoll said that on the recent election ballot paper there were many country nominees; the fact that nearly all Council members were from Dublin/Bray was a democratic decision of the members who voted.

The Council Report for 1984 was then discussed. R. Keogh stated that work done by himself and other members on Overseas Development during the year had not been referred to. It was agreed that an amendment would be made. The adoption of the 1984 Council Report was proposed by P. M. Joyce and seconded by E. Hendrick.

*Treasurer's Business*

P. Raftery explained that it might appear from the balance sheet that there was a deficit of approximately £400 in the running of the Society for 1984. However, two items — the Educational Award Fund — £916.61 and uncashed cheques for the 1983 Forest Walks — £501.84 were included in the incoming balance of £7,223.56. Also, an uncashed cheque for £620 which would not normally be paid until 1985 was shown in the accounts as having been paid. The net result of these transactions meant that there was a surplus of £1,628 in the day to day running of the Society in 1984.

Adoption of the 1984 Abstract of Accounts was proposed by J. Gardiner and seconded by M. Carey.

### *Confirmation of Elections*

The meeting confirmed the 1985 Council election as follows: President, M. O'Brien; Vice-President, J. Prior; Hon. Secretary, R. Griffin; Hon. Treasurer, P. Raftery; Editor, J. J. Gardiner; Business Editor, E. Hendrick; Hon. Auditor, W. H. Jack; Technical Councillors, M. Carey, J. Fennessy, A. Pfeifer, J. O'Driscoll (for one year only); Associate Councillor, B. Hussey.

### *President's Valedictory Address*

In the original version of the Society's Constitution and Rules, Rule 5 required of the President that "at the Annual General Meeting at which he demits office he shall, inter alia, review the advances in forestry or forestry knowledge during the year".

The 1971 version, still current, does not include that requirement, but neither does it prohibit the practice. I believe it to be useful that the Society should, for the benefit of members, have a published record of the significant events in the world of forestry during the term of office of each President. I recommend to my successors that they should also consider whether they accept this as a desideratum. I propose to review, in summary, what I have regarded as the important events of the past two years. Because of its potential effect on the future of forestry in the Republic of Ireland, it would be difficult not to give first place to the setting-up by the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry of a Review Group on Forestry in November 1984. The terms of reference of the Review Group are:

With a view to ensuring that the Country's afforestation programme and, in particular, the substantial resource which it represents, is developed and exploited to the best national advantage, having due regard to the role and function of the National Development Corporation where relevant —

- (1) to examine the present structure, organisation and operation of the Forest and Wildlife Service of the Department of Fisheries and Forestry;
- (2) to consider what changes, if any, are necessary;
- (3) to make specific recommendations on such changes;
- (4) to submit a report to the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry by 1st June 1985.

The Society has made a submission to the Review Group and I hope that the submission, together with an explanatory note to members, will be published in 'Irish Forestry' as a permanent record.

This review represents the first comprehensive and independent examination of forestry since the Departmental Committee which reported in 1908. It might be added that it is difficult to identify any specific outcome which can be ascribed in its cause to that report.

There were three publications related to forestry in 1984. Firstly, *The Forests of Ireland*, a new book with an old title, was published for the Society. The book was launched on November 14th by Sean MacBride, S.C., Nobel and Lenin prizewinner and honorary life member of the Society of Irish Foresters. I am sorry to have to report that, in my opinion, the publisher has priced the book at a level which is militating against its circulation in the numbers which might otherwise have been expected.

Secondly, there was a report published entitled, *The Case for Forestry*. This was the text of a report to the Government submitted in July 1982. On its basis the Government affirmed the long term planting target of 10,000 ha per annum, to include forest regeneration (known in the Forest and Wildlife Service as reforestation) on State forest land, and also including private sector afforestation. It is disappointing to record that the short term target of 7,500 ha per annum, to be implemented by private sector afforestation, is not being achieved. Finally the Report of the Interdepartmental Committee on *Quota/Tender Sales Systems for Disposal of State-Owned Timber* was published towards the end of the year.

It is perhaps a commonplace arising out of the cynicism of the media that none of these publications achieved a degree of publicity commensurate with that which had been given to items of adverse comment related to State Forestry in the recent past.

The purpose of State Forestry in Ireland is to provide a sustainable supply of raw materials for industry, and on the demand side the picture has been favourable. Sawmills have upgraded their operations and their capacity is such that there is a lively demand for all the sawlog material that can be put on the market. The demand for pulpwood was improved by the construction of a medium-density fibreboard (MDF) plant at Clonmel, officially opened in April 1984, and the re-opening later in the same year of an improved and streamlined chipboard factory at Scariff, Co. Clare.

In a more speculative vein it may also be true to say that 1984 will be remembered as the beginning of the era in which a re-appraisal of the EEC attitude to agricultural surpluses led to an understanding of the wood-producing capacity of large areas of Ireland, and of the potential benefits of this production, both for Ireland and for Europe.

Finally, I would like to refer to the work of the Society itself. It is not often that we receive direct evidence of the degree to which it achieves its object "to advance and spread in Ireland the knowledge of forestry in all its aspects", but I have become aware that certain promising developments in the silviculture of lodgepole pine, now being implemented in some areas, arose out of the Society's day meeting held in Co. Mayo in October 1983.

Before standing down I wish to thank all the members of the outgoing Council for their work throughout the period, a period in which my own commitments have prevented me from giving to the Society the amount of attention I would have wished, and I also thank Ms. Lily Furlong for her help in our distribution among members of *The Forests of Ireland*.

I hand over my office to the new President, Mr. Michael O'Brien.

#### *Any Other Business*

The new President, Mr. Michael O'Brien in the Chair.

F. Mulloy said he wished to record his gratitude to N. O'Carroll for his work in editing the book, *The Forests of Ireland*. However, he was surprised that the book was dedicated to the late Mr. T. McEvoy only, as he thought there were many others who contributed significantly to the promotion of forestry in Ireland over the years. M. Carey asked who supported the costs of the publishing the book? N. O'Carroll said the publishers, Turoe Press, bore all the expenses and that when they had cleared them, they would pay a royalty per copy sold, to the Society. On the question of the high cost of the book, N. O'Carroll said every effort had been made to keep the price low and the he had complained to Turoe Press about the eventual publishing price. J. Prior wondered why the sterling and not the Irish price was printed on the book.

It was stated that it was compulsory by English law to have the price printed on the book, but this was not the case in this Country. E. Griffin stated that sales of the book at the end of February stood at 270 cloth and 590 paperback.

J. Dillon asked what was the situation with regard to Forest Walks. The President said it was hoped to re-start them in 1985. F. Mulloy asked if the Society had planned to do anything with regard to 1985 being dedicated "International Year of the Forest". E. Griffin replied that the matter is on the Agenda for the next Council meeting.

A discussion followed on the quality and content of articles in 'Irish Forestry'. N. O'Carroll stated that there were other journals in which articles on amenity or wildlife would be more appropriate than in a journal about forestry. J. Gardiner (Editor) said that it was difficult at times to obtain enough articles for certain journals,

and that he had never refused any scientific articles on forestry. D. Mangan felt that many of the articles were too scientific, particularly for some of the associate members. B. Lacey suggested that a review article on a specific aspect of forestry might be printed each year. Some members felt that it would be better to have the "Notes for the Assistance of Contributors" printed at the back of the Journal rather than at the beginning.

R. Keogh raised the question of opening the Symposium to non-members and an inclusive discussion followed.

J. Dillon said that the Society did not appear to be attracting the membership of young private planters. It was felt that many of them probably did not know of the existence of the Society. M. Carey suggested that an advertisement be placed in "The Farmers Journal" from time to time. The President said that the incoming Council would discuss the issue.

The meeting concluded at 9.50 p.m

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

##### *Forestry Commission, London*

Report on Forest Research, 1984.

Price (in U.K.) £6.80.

Forestry Commission Bulletin 61.

Technology Transfer in Forestry. 1984. (For Review).

Price (in U.K.) £6.50.

Forestry Commission Bulletin 62.

Silviculture of Broadleaved Woodland.

Price (in U.K.) £9.50.

Forestry Commission Leaflets:

71. Ploughing of Forest Soils

Price (in U.K.) £1.70.

84. Guide to Upland Restocking Practice.

Price (in U.K.) £2.30.

Arbiculture Leaflet I. The External Signs of Decay in Trees.

Price (in U.K.) £1.00

Forestry Commission, Forest Records:

126. Oak Wilt. Price (in U.K.) £0.90.

128. The Production of Poles for Electricity Supply and Telecommunication.

Price (in U.K.) £1.00

Forestry Commission Research and Development Paper 32.

Reclamation of mineral workings to forestry.

Price (in U.K.) £1.50.

##### *Public Record Office Northern Ireland*

A Register of Trees for County Londonderry, 1768-1911.

Price £5.50.

##### *Society of Irish Foresters*

The Forests of Ireland (for Review).

Price: Turoe Press. Hardback: £13.46; Paperback: £7.95.