

Forestry News

VISIT OF KOALAS TO DUBLIN ZOO

In June 1988 Dublin Zoo had the unique distinction of being the first zoo in Europe to display koalas. The two animals, a male and a female, arrived in Dublin on Friday 10th June and went on show to the public on Tuesday 14th June with an official launching by Mr. Michael Smith T.D., Minister for Forestry.

One of the main considerations in bringing the koalas to Ireland was a supply of fresh eucalyptus browse. This browse came from some of the stands of eucalyptus planted in the early fifties in forest centres in the Wicklow/Wexford region. Koalas eat only the fresh tops of about twenty varieties of eucalyptus and most of the plantations here were suitable.

The two animals on display were bred at San Diego Zoo out of parental stock from the famous Lone Pine Sanctuary, near Brisbane in Queensland, Australia. The koalas have aboriginal names – Kupal (meaning 'white') and Banjeeri (meaning 'voice of a ceptoral spirit'). They are both one year old and are almost fully mature.

J. Fennessy



Koala Bear
(Dublin Zoo)



Ms. Vickie Kuder
(Koala Keeper)
Travelled from San Diego Zoo
to Dublin with Koalas.



THE WOOD GATHERER

Piece of delightful sculpture made from beech on display in Hazelwood Forest, Sligo. The work is part of a sculpture presentation in this forest. The 'Wood Gatherer' was created by Jackie McKenna, Dublin.

FIRST NATIONAL FORESTRY SHOW

Held on the 9th and 10th of September at Garryhinch Property in Emo forest. "Forestry 88" was organised jointly by the Irish Timbermens Association (ITA) and the Society. Committee members were: Richard Whelan (Chairman), John O'Sullivan (Secretary), Jim Hurley (Treasurer) and Dominic Ryan from the ITA. Dr. Jack Gardiner (PRO), Donal Magner (Editor), Jim Neilan and Alistair Pfeifer represented the Society.

The show, which was opened by the Minister for Forestry, Mr. Michael Smith TD, featured 50 stands erected mostly by companies engaged in sale of such products as chemicals, fertilisers, harvesting machinery, nursery stock, wood products and protective clothing. Stands were also erected by the Forest Service showing its work on timber quality and silvicultural research, training and private forestry. Many of the newly founded establishment companies were also represented. Demonstrations of various machines added considerable interest to the show, particularly when these could be seen working under forest conditions.

The Society's tent featured three stands. One stand was erected



Forest Service Wood Quality Research Stand.

by Mr. Peter Sweetman, a wood turner who presented a display of magnificent bowls and wood shapes turned from unusual timbers. A second stand featured a display of hurleys manufactured by Mr. Pat Staunton from Ashford and the third was organised by Society members. This third stand consisted of a series of five panels depicting various aspects of our most commonly planted conifer and hardwood species. A further two panels titled 'Woods of the World' displayed timber samples of exotic species grown in Powerscourt Demesne and kindly lent to the Society by the UCD Forestry Department.

One of the main events of the show was the finals of the 'All Ireland Chainsaw Competition' organised and judged by the ITA. Competitors for this event had successfully competed in the area finals and teams from the North-West, East, South and Midlands were represented in the championship. In judging the competition emphasis was placed on safety and skill but speed was also a consideration. For the public, the competition was a very good demonstration of the techniques of tree felling and delimbing. Wicklow won the team prize and Mr. Noel O'Carroll, from Glencree Forest, won the individual prize. Prizes from the various sponsors were generous and one of the prizes for the best individual competitor was a trip to Elmia Wood 1989.

A 90 page show catalogue was prepared which contained articles and photographs on Irish forestry and is the first trade directory of the forestry industry in Ireland.



Prizewinners of All Ireland Chainsaw Championships
 (left to right): Noel O'Carroll (1st Prize),
 Anthony Reilly (2nd Prize), Pat Murphy (3rd Prize).
 Michael Smith, TD, Minister for Forestry,
 Richard Whelan, Chairman of "Forestry 88".

The weather was excellent on the Friday and there was a good turn out of forestry personnel and those employed in the industry. A dull start on Saturday deteriorated into heavy drizzle for the afternoon but despite the poor weather a large crowd attended. Over the two days it was estimated that approximately 7,000 people visited the show.

A buffet reception was held for 300 exhibitors and invited guests at Manly's Hotel in Portarlinton on the night of Friday the 9th. This evening was an unqualified success and was certainly the highlight of the forestry social events in 1988.

Considerable thanks are due to the sponsors of the show, particularly the Forest Service who kindly gave permission to use the site, FBD Insurances who provided insurance cover and the Civil Defence for stewarding, security and providing a bus service within the site. Thanks are also due to those members of both organisations and particularly the site committee who worked so hard to make the show a success.

Reaction from the trade, the public and the forestry profession was very favourable. It was a fine example of how two organisations with co-operation and commitment can create something that neither would achieve alone.

We look forward to further ventures and a bigger and better show in the form of 'Forestry '90'.

A. Pfeifer

STORM DAMAGE

Southern England experienced a huge storm in October 1987 which resulted in a considerable amount of damage to trees. The following is extracted from a two page leaflet produced by the British Forestry Commission. Its logical approach to clearing up after such a storm may prove useful in other areas which may in time experience a similar catastrophe.

THE STORM OF 16th OCTOBER 1987

INFORMATION NOTE

Forestry Commission Research Division

by B. G. Hibberd, Research Communications Officer.

The exceptional windspeeds of up to 90 knots (100mph) experienced in the early hours of 16th October 1987 resulted in widespread damage to structures and trees in an area south and east of the line between Bournemouth and Kings Lynn. Many of the trees affected were broad-leaved species in private and local authority ownership. This Note gives guidance for ordering priorities in the clearance, taking account of the possible deterioration of timber, insect damage and disease among remaining trees.

Clearance

Trees blocking public roads, threatening powerlines, property or otherwise considered to be dangerous, should be attended to first. Other broken or shattered trees should be cleared next, followed by uprooted trees which are largely intact with some roots still in contact with the soil. It is clear that everything possible must be done to remove trees in the first category as quickly as possible, but trees in the remaining categories can be left for considerable periods of time. With few exceptions (notably the pines) there is a time-scale of 2-3 years, exceptionally up to 5 years, in which trees which are not dangerous can be harvested and marketed in a systematic and economical manner. The following table gives general guidance on the sequence in which tree species should be cleared:

Order of removal of species

First The pines (pine species are likely to harbour insects harmful to conifers during the summer of 1988 and suffer from early staining of timber)

Sycamore, the poplars, beech, ash, lime, plane and birch (some degrade will occur in the summer of 1988)

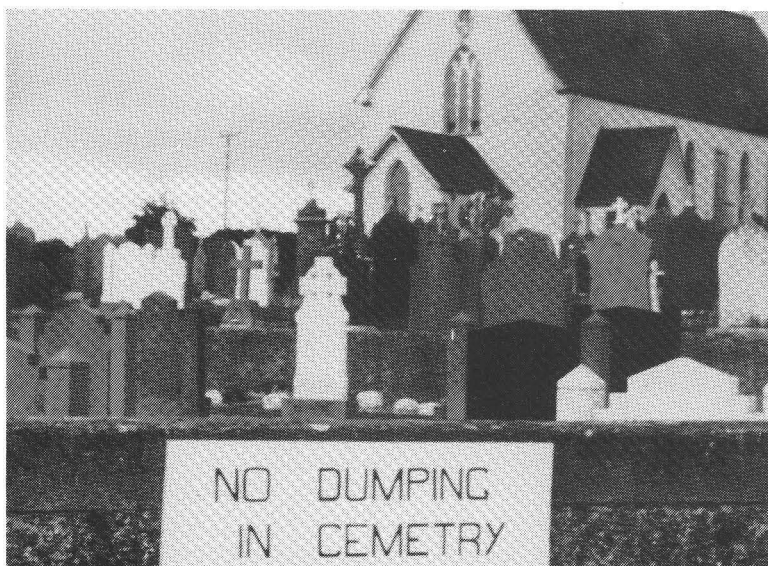
The spruces and silver firs

Douglas fir and western hemlock

The larches

Last Oaks, sweet chestnut and yew (blown over but intact may be left for up to 5 years)

Trees of species which degrade quickly but have limited value need not be given priority if they are only to be used for firewood or pulpwood. They should be removed as part of an orderly clearance programme.



Cremation the only resort! (Slide submitted by D. McAree)

NEWSFLASH

Charles (Chuck) J. Lankester, Principal Technical Adviser of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has agreed to visit Ireland and address the Society of Irish Foresters under the theme:



TROPICAL DEFORESTATION – WHY BOTHER

With worldwide responsibilities for the UNDP's total programme in forestry and forest industries, watershed management, national parks and wildlife, he is well qualified to discuss this problem. He has been deeply involved with the major strategy to combat the destruction of the tropics' forests. In recognition for his efforts he was a joint recipient of the worldwide "Man of the Trees" award in 1985.

He is to deliver the talk to the Society on **Saturday 3rd December 1988 at 7.30 p.m. in Theatre N, Arts Block, University College Dublin, Belfield.** It will be a public meeting: Admission Free.

THE GOOD WOOD ANT

Wood ants, *Formica rufa*, are beneficial to woodlands – but just how good are they?

Dr. John Whittaker and a team of researchers from Lancaster University discovered that over 102,000 insects, which included 2,000 caterpillars, were collected by one nest in a woodland in one hour.

I'LL HAVE A PINT OF STOUT MYSELF PLEASE!

At one time it was common for Indians in the south-eastern United States to come together for ritual cleaning. To do this they gathered bundles of leaves of a species of holly, *Ilex vomitoria*, then boiled these leaves until they made an infusion. The Indians drank large quantities of the infusion which caused them to vomit. For several days they would continue this practice of drinking and vomiting until they had entirely cleansed themselves.

TOOTHACHE TREE

The 'Newtonia' tree from the Usambara Mountains of Tanzania produces bean pods. The local people have traditionally used the seeds to relieve toothache.

RETIREMENT OF EDITOR

I will be retiring as Editor of the Journal after this issue to allow new blood to take control. I have very much enjoyed being Editor. I would like to thank all of those who have in any way helped with the production of this Journal over the past three years. In particular, my thanks to those who agreed to be 'proof-readers' during that time.

I wish the incoming Editor all success with the Journal.

Pat McCusker



