

# DWOSL NEWSLETTER

## January 2016

### Chairman's Message

After our AGM I was elected as Chairman at our monthly meeting. It is a great honour to serve as Chairman of DWOSL. The committee that we have at present are putting in a huge amount of voluntary work with no expenses applied. This amount of voluntary work cannot be sustained. So we have decided to change our way of doing business by having a more hands off approach, but also to be more informative and engaging with our members. With the turnover that we have, we find that our overhead expenses e.g. insurance and accountant are unsustainable.

The Gasifier in Laghy is now sold as a going concern to one of our members and we wish him well with this business. Also our second Loper Gasifier has arrived safely in Ireland. The other machinery that we have, some of which we have made good use of, and some not, we have now decided to sell. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

While listening to the leaders from all the different countries in Paris recently talking about climate change, I can't help but fear that they are all rearranging the deck chairs and some playing fiddle on the sinking titanic. While it is up to the bigger economies to really make a difference, e.g. America, China, India to name but a few, it is also up to Ireland to do our part. Forestry is where Ireland can really help in lowering CO2 emissions. We have vast areas of land which are not in use that can be used for planting trees. Unfortunately, from our point of view, there are restrictions on most of these areas. If the Government is serious about climate change, they need to sit down with the proper bodies and work out what areas are suitable for planting, and make the necessary steps to have these lands available.

Finally I would like to wish you all a prosperous New Year.



Charlie Doherty (Chairman)

## FOLIAGE SAMPLING

**What is foliage sampling?** Leaves or needles are removed for analysis in a laboratory. Foliage analysis is recommended if you are concerned about the health of your trees and suspect a nutrient deficiency in your forest.

**Why do foliage sampling?** A foliage analysis is the best way to determine exactly what suspected nutrients are missing, it will give you a good idea if fertilizer is required, what type to use and how much to apply.

**What to look for?** Detecting the symptoms of nutrient deficiencies early is very important, a year left unattended is a year wasted. Signs to watch out for are; yellow/shorter needles and slow growth, the presence of heather may indicate the need of some fertilizer. Keep in mind that there is no point in applying fertilizer if the ground is poorly drained; drainage needs to be improved first.

**Who to take the foliage sample?** It can be carried out by yourself or someone who knows what they are doing and where to take the samples from. Teagasc or a Registered Forester can do it also; there may be a cost involved.

**How to take the foliage sample?** If you decide to take the samples yourself here are some guidelines:

Select foliage from the current season's growth, on secondary branches from the upper third of the tree. (never collect main shoot)

Each sample should contain foliage from 25-30 different trees, all foliage should be from the same species of tree, (do not mix Norway spruce with Sitka spruce for instance)

Place foliage in a clean plastic bag, clearly label the bag with the date, location and surname, keep the sample in a cool place and make a note for yourself where the sample came from.

Fill out a Foliage Sample Form for each sample; the foliage sample forms are available from your local Teagasc forestry development officer.

Send sample(s) immediately to approved laboratory, try to avoid weekends and holidays in case of delay, if a delay in dispatch is unavoidable then store sample(s) in a cool place.

The Teagasc Forestry website ([www.teagasc.ie/forestry](http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry)) has more detailed information on foliage sampling including the contact details of the approved laboratories.

**When to take a foliage sample?** The appropriate time to take samples is December for conifers and August for broadleaves and Larch.

**What happens next to the foliage samples?** The approved laboratory will analyse the samples and in time results and recommendation will be sent to you. Keep in mind that foliage sampling can be expensive. The information you get from the results of your sampling will enable you to get involved and get the most out of your Forest.

Danny O'Donnell

## Timber and Firewood Measurement?

If you are buying / selling any product, it's vital to know how much you are buying / selling and the price per unit. Here is a rough guide regarding buying/selling logs at roadside and also firewood.

### The Log Pile – How much Timber is there?

Measure the average length, by the height, by the width of the stack in metres. For example, a log stack of 25 metres long, by 3.5 metres high, by 3 metres wide. This,  $25 \times 3.5 \times 3 = 262.50$  (M<sup>3</sup>) cubic metres, but this includes the air spaces within the stack.

For smaller diameter first thinning measurement -i.e. solid cubic metres of timber, divide the 262.50 by a conversion rate of 1.4. The result is 87.50 (M<sup>3</sup>) cubic metres of solid timber in the stack.

*Now you can figure out how many cubic metres of timber are in a stack of first thinning.*

### A solid cubic Metre of timber – How much firewood is that?

*First thinning smaller diameter logs stacked 1meter X 1meter X 1.4 meters is approximately a solid (M<sup>3</sup>) cubic metre of wood.*

If you cut and split up this pile of timber and throw this split firewood into an enclosed area, this space would measure approximately 1.3 X 1.4 X 1 metre which equals 1.8 cubic metres. Therefore 1.8 cu metres of dumped firewood is equal to 1 cu metre of solid wood.

*With this figure you can work out approximately how many cubic metres of solid timber you are buying / selling in a trailer load or a large dumped pile of firewood blocks.*

### How many bags of firewood in a solid cubic metre of firewood?

*Bags of firewood come in all shapes and sizes. It is vital to know how much firewood you are selling in each bag, bulk bag or trailer. Otherwise you could easily be a busy fool and working at a loss.*

Approximately 59 red net bags (45cm X 65cm) hold a solid cubic metre of split firewood from first thinning.

Approximately 2.2 bulk bags, (White, ventilated 4 looped, 90cm X 90cm X 90cm) hold a solid cubic metre of split firewood from first thinning.

### What price?

Check the local market price. Is your timber seasoned or green, softwood or hardwood, picked up or delivered? The VAT rate on firewood is 13.5%. Firewood is a growing market and the buyers want quality firewood and are prepared to pay that bit extra for good quality. Any comments?

## Forestry and Climate Change

The agreement of 195 nations to phase out fossil fuels (underscored by a month's rainfall in 36 hours, and floods from Castlefinn to the Shannon) is a truly momentous reversal in the tide of history. We now have no choice but to re-think how we run our national economy, and how we conduct our own life-styles to suit. There is no get out clause.

But that is not bad news. Even disregarding climate change, we can't go on running faster and faster just to stand still. There has to be a better way. Part of that re-think must be to replace fossil fuels more quickly than is planned. But Ireland is only targeting 2100 – let the grandchildren sort it out. It is hard to see the growth of renewable energy, so far, as a replacement for fossil fuels – it looks much more like an add-on. A genuine attempt to convert to a sustainable economy has to have several elements to its energy policy:

- a reduction in energy demand
  - an increase in carbon-capture
  - greater diversity of renewables, including more micro-generation of heat and electricity.
- Forestry can tick two of those three boxes, and is bound to attract more incentives as time goes on – there has already been a lot of comment since the Paris conference on the probability of an increase in forestry in Ireland.

The whole fossil fuel industry is still heavily subsidised world-wide. Happily, since Paris, big investors are starting to shift money away from fossil fuels. And some of the subsidies have to be shifted to wood energy – but only where it can be shown to be carbon neutral. Burning wood pumps out CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) - but growing wood draws it in. So if we grow more wood as fast as we burn it, the whole enterprise is carbon neutral. The difficulty is that the CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> (methane) stored in peat are released as soon as peat starts to dry, and CH<sub>4</sub> in the atmosphere has 72 times the warming power of CO<sub>2</sub> over a 20 year period. So ploughing and draining peat has to be avoided – in other words, *No More New Plantations on Peat*. It makes no sense to create a carbon sink by destroying another one.

It is argued by our government and farming lobbies that all farmland is needed to increase our agricultural output, which is needed to feed the world (global food security). In the last newsletter I outlined some of the reasons why this view is misguided, so I won't repeat them here. But I will add that cattle fed on silage emit high levels of methane, and Irish farming in general is hugely dependant on diesel machinery and electricity. Forestry of course also consumes diesel, but only at rare intervals. If growing timber on good soils nibbles a bit at our agricultural output, it will be no bad thing.

On the practical side, we need to brace ourselves for higher wind speeds and higher temperatures. And diversifying our plantations will be some protection from major pest outbreaks. But one thing is sure. Trees are not generally affected by short-term weather events, like droughts or floods. Fire is not likely to be a hazard on mineral soils, and if our summers become wetter, as the current predictions for this end of the county suggest, it might not be as big a risk as some fear for the existing plantations on the hills.

Ralph Sheppard

## Items for Sale

The photos below illustrate all of the machinery that is owed by DWOSL. Because of insurance costs, lack of use or time commitments, the committee has decided to sell this machinery. It will be opened to offers within DWOSL and to the general public (Done Deal, Dealer). If anyone would like to purchase a machine, can they please ring 086 041 0809 before 31st January to discuss options.

1. Neuhauser Post Peeler/Pointer/Saw Bench and De – Barker.
2. JL35 IP Winch
3. LMS 122 forestry trailer with LMS665 forestry crane
4. Hakki Pilke 1X - 37 Firewood Processor with a log rack and 6 way splitting blade
5. Haglof Digital Tree Calliper
6. Trimble, LaserAce 1000 Range finder with digital compass.
7. Lopper, Drummer 350 Gasification boiler with buffer tank and heat exchanger
8. Ifor Williams 5 x 10ft tipping trailer



1. Post peeler-debarker as new



2. Timber winch fair condition



3 Timber trailer with grab as new



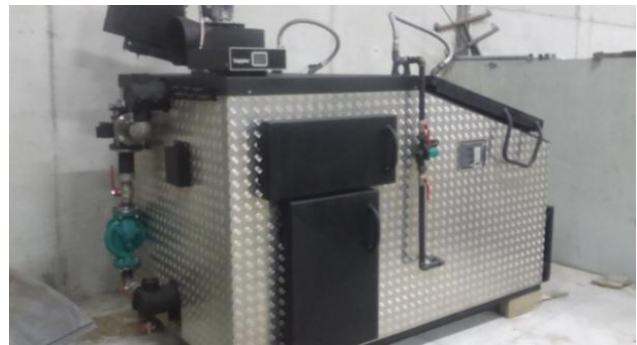
4. Wood processor with log rack. Very good condition



5. Haglof Digital Tree Calliper



6. Trimble LaserAce 1000 Range finder with digital compass



7. Lopper, Drummer 350 Gasification boiler with buffer tank and heat exchanger



8. Ivor Williams tipping trailer  
Very good condition

## Committee Members

### January 2016

Chairman	Charlie Doherty	Burt	086 822 0247	Inishowen
Vice Chairman	Raymond Treacy	Stranorlar	087 244 1354	East Donegal
Secretary	Danny O Donnell	Dungloe	087 214 2207	West Donegal
Joint Treasurer	John Jackson	Stranorlar	086 817 5056	East Donegal
Joint Treasurer	Hugh McGarrigle	Ballyshannon	086 809 4103	South Donegal
Machine Operator	Leslie Edwards	Burt	086 103 6216	Inishowen
Committee Member	Thomas Becht	Glenties	087 262 5590	West Donegal
Committee Member	Alex Evans	Bruckless	087 233 2918	South Donegal
Committee Member	Bobby Love	Donegal Town	087 661 2010	South Donegal
Committee Member	Canice McGeehin	Cloghan	086 193 2765	West Donegal
Committee Member	Ralph Sheppard	Raphoe	087 922 7460	East Donegal
Committee Member	Keith Stewart	Kilmacrennan	086 600 6468	North Donegal

There are 13 places on the DWOSL Committee, of which 12 are at present filled. If any member wishes to put their name forward to join the DWOSL committee, please get in touch with me, or any committee member. Under rule 11C of DWOSL, when there is a vacancy, a member can be co-opted onto the Committee, to serve until the next Annual General Meeting of the Society. Then he/she has to retire, but shall be eligible for re-election.

**Charlie Doherty, Chairman DWOSL 11 January 2016**

### Outstanding Membership Renewal Fees etc.

We have enclosed invoices for outstanding membership renewal fees etc., where appropriate, as our end of year accounts are being prepared.

Cheques can be made payable to DWOSL, or Donegal Woodland Owners Society Limited, and posted to; DWOSL, PO BOX 10, Donegal Town.

OR

For Credit Transfer: Please quote your name and invoice number on the credit transfer.

DWOSL Bank Account Details:

Allied Irish Bank, Main Street, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal

Account name: Donegal Woodland Owners Society Limited  
Box 10, Donegal Town, Co Donegal

Bank Sorting Code: 93-73-63 Account No: 19164-189

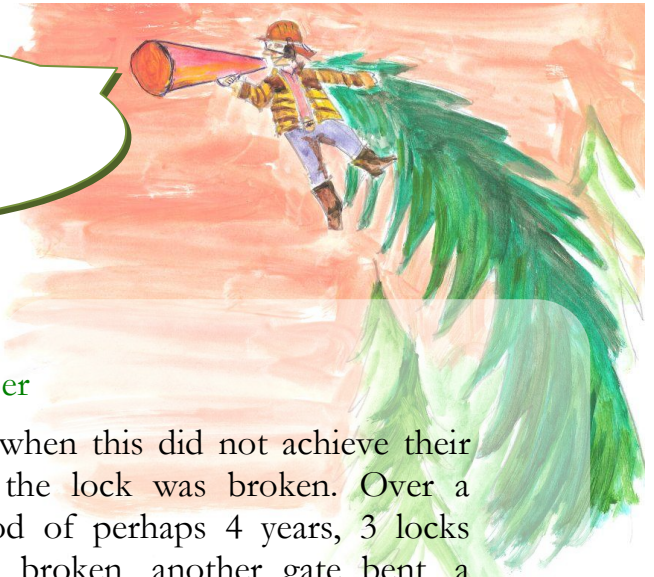
IBAN: IE59 AIBK 9373 6319 1641 89 BIC: AIBKIE2D

**FOR QUERIES, PHONE ADMIN DWOSL 086 0410809**

**Joint Treasurers: Hugh McGarrigle & John Jackson**

## MEMBERS CORNER

### Shouting from the Tree Tops



### Thoughts on a Forest From a DWOSL member

We planted a forest in 1990. It was a big project and occupied my husband's thoughts for many years. It grew quickly and we were happy to avail of a generous government grant to improve the road through the wood. All along the way we were greatly helped and encouraged by the Donegal Woodland Society. Now we had a wonderful amenity and all the family enjoyed walking and playing there. We were delighted when we first found evidence of red squirrel and other wildlife. Birds arrived which had not been in this area before.

We thought this amenity should be shared so we left an old entrance gate open for walkers and invited our neighbours to go there freely, which we were happy to see that they did.

Then alas a bad element arrived, joy riders with quads who raced on the new road ruining the surface with deep tracks. In order to gain entrance they bashed the new gate

and when this did not achieve their aim the lock was broken. Over a period of perhaps 4 years, 3 locks were broken, another gate bent, a fence flattened, and even a post cut down to which a chain was attached to secure the gate. These attempts were made at intervals and each time locks were replaced fences mended etc.

Finally some intruders were found stealing wood. The guards were called for the third time and a tractor trailer and quad were impounded. Now we hope life in the forest will be quiet again.

Perhaps this is just a moment in time in the history of a forest that my late husband planted with such pride. The forest will outlive those hooligans and robbers. We hope that new species of trees will be added and it will remain as a perpetual forest for many generations to come. And a pleasure for all those who walk there to enjoy peace and serenity.

Unless specified as such, the opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of DWOSL.