

118th Annual Spring Excursion and ABM

Sunday 8th May

RV at The Best Western Hilcroft Hotel, East Main St, Whitburn, W Lothian EH47 0JU

(www.hilcrofthotel.com)

6pm Drinks reception followed by informal dinner

Monday 9th May

Morning: Introduction to Forestry in Central Scotland by Simon Rennie, Chief Executive Central Scotland Green Network Trust.

We will visit Dedridge Environment Ecology Project (DEEP) and Bells Quarry (Woodland Trust) near Livingston (see websites)

DEEP is an SFWA 2012 winner, community-led initiative regenerating the Dedridge Burn corridor between Bankton Mains Park and the confluence with the River Almond.

Bells Quarry Wood, a popular urban woodland rich in wildlife, undergoing continuing improvement.

Lunch at Lanthorn Centre

PM: Visit Calderwood Almondell & Calderwood Country Park is in the valley of the River Almond covering 90ha between Broxburn and East Calder (see website)

1900 Annual Dinner The Hilcroft Hotel

Tuesday 10th May

Morning: Visit Callendar Estate Falkirk (see website) the woodlands on the privately owned 1900ha estate to 600ha, managed for production of commercial timber, nature conservation and public access.

Afternoon: Visit Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Falkirk. Forest Enterprise Scotland have restored the policy woods and designed landscape (10ha) of old Larbert House for the benefit of the staff, patients and local people.

NORTHERN REGION

26 Apr. Private estate Vs State management. Burgie House and Estate. By kind invitation of Capt H.J Lochore. RV 10.00 at Burgie House. IV36 2QU. Afternoon; 1415 move to Monaghty Forestry Commission.

14 Jun. Alladale Estate. By kind invitation of Paul Lister. Woodland restoration & reintroduction of species such as Lynx. RV 10.00. PH20 1BU PM: Amat Estate. Native pinewood management and restoration. Managed by CKD Galbraith.

20 Sept. Creag Meagaidh. Hosted by Rory Richardson NNR Reserve Manager. Deer reduction and restoration of native woodland and wildlife habitat. RV 10.00. NN 483 872

PM: Laggan Forest Trust. Host Jim DeBank. 4 October. ABM Balloch 1900.

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Secretary: Mr Maurice Rogers OBE

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NORTHEAST REGION

27 May. AM: Crannach NR (courtesy of RSPB). RV 1000. NO 386977. 520ha of diverse habitat. PM: Bellwood Community Woodland (By kind invitation Mid Deeside Ltd). RV 1400 NO537987. Multi use management. Leisure/wildlife/forestry. **Further dates and details to follow-see website.**

Chairman: Mr Steve Brown T: 01466 792314

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CENTRAL REGION

16 Feb. PM. 1630 for 1700. Sterling Campus. Forth Valley College. Update on SRDP woodland grant scheme. Live demonstration by Sylva of "My Forest". Light refreshments.

www.nhsforthvalley.com/branching-out-for-better-mental-health

1830 ABM The Hilcroft Hotel.

Followed by informal dinner.

Wednesday 11th May

Morning: Visit Beecraigs Country Park, Linlithgow. www.westlothian.gov.uk/beecraigs
The Country Park comprises 270ha of managed forest, 60ha of farmland and a sawmill. Conversion to continuous cover in some compartments is underway. Beecraigs has 500k visitors a year.

Afternoon: Visit Hopetoun Estate, South Queensferry. www.hopetoun.co.uk

Lunch at Hopetoun Visitor Centre.

The woodlands on the 2,600ha estate extend to 400ha. Commercial plantations and natural regeneration on disused mines. The woods are nearing completion of transition to low impact silvicultural systems.

WEBSITE

Members are reminded to email the Director to allow him to enter their details on the user database and issue a password. Merely registering does not give you access to the Members' Area. We have 275 (up 47) members now logged in and hope to increase that again this year. The website calendar is the most up to date medium for all Society events please make full use of the facility.

SHOWS (RSFS Deployed)

Stewartry Show – 4th Aug

Peebles Wood Market – 22nd /23rd Oct

All Field Trips Count for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Points

17/18 Feb. Joint meeting near Kilmelford with Argyll Small Woods Co-operative. Visit followed by evening meeting at Culfaill Hotel.

Next day (18.02.16) Field Day in West Argyll. Details to follow by Email and on web site.

5 Jul. Lochdochart Estate. By kind permission of Mr and Mrs John Christie and Peter Christie.

RV 10:00 at Lochdochart House, NN 433 275 50 years of progress with farm/forest integration and development of hydro scheme within a NP.

6 Sep. AM: Balbirnie Home Farms, Fife (by kind permission of Robert Balfour). RV 10:00 at Pittillock Farm Office, NO 278 052. Home-grown thinnings fuelling a chip-fired grain dryer; Wood landscaping on former sandpit & brick works.

PM: Wemyss Estate, Coaltown of Wemyss (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Michael Wemyss and The Wemyss Estates Trustees).

RV 13:30 at Walled Garden, NT 329 955

Firewood production & landscape restoration.

4 Oct. Glen Finglas (By kind permission of the Woodland Trust Scotland). RV 10:00 WT Visitor Gateway NN 546 066. Wood/pasture restoration, integrated cattle grazing, within a NNR & NP.

Chairman: Mr Nander Robertson T: 01786

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Secretary: Mr Mike Osborne T: 01786 822034

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LOTHIAN & BORDERS REGION

11 Feb. Forest Research, Northern Forest Research Station Bush Estate. Joint with Central. RV 1230. Lunch provided. EH25 9SY. NT 249640.

16 Jun. Torwoodlee Estate. By kind invitation of James Pringle. PM: Yair Estate. By kind invitation of Mrs William Thyne. Two traditional mixed estates. RV 10.00. TD1 1UB. NT 465378

22 Sept. Kingsbeck Estate. By kind invitation of Jon McCosh. Joint with SW & NI. RV 1000 Culter Allers House. ML12 6PZ NT 026340. (NB not Culter Ho – same PC) Bring 4W drive pse.

Royal Scottish Forestry Society



2016 Programme Card

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COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mar 9 Cathedral Halls Dunblane

Sep 28 Cathedral Halls Dunblane

20 Oct. AM: BSW Sawmill Petersmuir. ABM. PM: Oxenfoord Castle Estate. By kind invitation of The Hon Michael Dalrymple. RV 1000. EH41 4JR NT 486660.

Chairman: Mr James Hepburne Scott T: 01578

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SOUTHWEST & NI REGION

22 Apr. Protected species legislation survey and mitigation led by Peak Ecology Ltd. Ecological constraints to forest operations & solutions using Shambellie Estate, DG2 8HQ (By kind permission of the trustees). Egger Forestry, working with GM Thomson, will show us recent forest management.

27 May. Newton Stewart FCS area. RV 10.00 at FCS yard above Glentroul. Rob Soutar and John Dougan (FCS) will attend. Discussion of larch disease in this area and what to do now?

21 Jun. Corsewell, Kirkcolum, Stranraer, DG9 0NX (By kind invitation of Angus Carrick-Buchanan). RV 1000. Look at and discuss the management of low value or hitherto unproductive woodland. 1430 Blair Biomass Ltd, Outer Blair Farm, Stranraer, DG9 9BE (By kind invitation of Leo Petrucci) tour of woodchip-drying facility.

Chairman: Sir Patrick Hunter Blair

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RSFS FOREST TRUST COMPANY

The Native Forest Centre is open Apr – Oct 10.00 – 16.00 (except Mondays). Also available for hire. **5 August.** AGM See www.cashel.org.uk for more.

Chairman: Mr Paul Ramsay

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