Trees and Woodlands Seminar

"A culture is no better than its woods" – W.H Auden

21 October 2020
Online Seminar
Programme

10:00  Seminar Start

Session One

The England Tree Strategy
- Aims and objectives
- Increasing tree cover and the multiple benefits this will bring
- The role of local authorities

Katy Moseley, England Tree Strategy Project Manager, DEFRA

‘Right Tree, Right Place’ – Meeting Climate Change Targets Sustainably
- The growing demand for tree planting in light of climate change
- Considerations as to how and where to plant trees
- The wider aims of the Woodland Trust

John Tucker, Director of Woodland Outreach, The Woodland Trust

How Valuing Our Trees Can Unlock Economic Growth – The I-Trees Project
- Explaining the i-Tree Eco project and survey
- Determining the optimal location for tree planting in an urban area
- The benefits derived from urban tree planting schemes

Sam Bolton, The City of Trees, Greater Manchester

11:15  Virtual Coffee Break

11:30  Session Two

‘It All Starts With Having a Good Tree and Woodland Strategy’
- The importance of managing our Tree & Woodland assets
- Delivering the strategy and managing expectations – operational considerations
- Benefits and future plans.

Eirwen Hopwood, Parks & Woodlands Manager & Jane Begg, Tree & Woodlands Officer

The Growing Importance of Tree Wardens
- The origins of the National Tree Wardens Scheme
- Developing roles and responsibilities
- The benefits of having a tree warden scheme

Sam Village, National Tree Warden Scheme Co-ordinator, The Tree Council

Healthy Trees, Healthy Landscapes
- Explaining biosecurity
- Potential threats and hazards
- Ensuring the future sustainability of our tree stocks

Jon Stokes, Director of Trees, Science & Research, The Tree Council

Audience question and answer session

12:30  Seminar Close
Seminar Objectives

About the Seminar

Trees and woodlands have been largely misunderstood by humans and it is perhaps not surprising that, in the past, they were seen as wild and dangerous places because of their size and geographical spread. Indeed, the word savage has its origins in the Latin ‘silvaticus’ or ‘of the woods.’

Since humans acquired the technology to clear woodlands for farming, fuel and buildings, forest cover across the world has been seriously reduced. It is estimated that up to 46% of global tree cover has been lost as a result of human activity.

Forests still cover about 30% of the world’s land area, but they are disappearing at an alarming rate. According to a 2015 study in the journal ‘Nature’, about 17% of the Amazon Rainforest has been destroyed over the past 50 years alone, and this loss is accelerating as more areas of the rainforest are cleared for farming and logging.

However, it is not just tree loss which is of concern, but the associated effects on wildlife, weather patterns and now the negative impacts of climate change.

It is argued, quite rightly, that we need trees for a variety of reasons, often quoting the facts that trees absorb the carbon dioxide we exhale and the heat-trapping greenhouse gases that human activities emit. But again, this is a totally self-centred argument from a human perspective; it is now widely accepted that all life on earth is inter-linked and supportive, and that there is a fine balance to ensure conditions for life are maintained. The activities of humans, particularly since the industrial revolution, have begun to break or seriously damage some of these links, none more so than the continued deforestation of our planet.

In an attempt to address some of these mistakes, and to combat the affects of climate change, many countries are now trying to re-forest their landscapes through mass tree planting programmes. In the UK, examples include ‘The Northern Forest’ and ‘The Forest for Cornwall,’ to name but a few.

However, in order for these new forest areas to be successful and sustainable, there is a series of issues to be considered: where should trees be planted; which type of trees should be planted, the need to ensure tree health both before and after planting, finding funding for tree planting schemes, monitoring success of tree planting projects, and the long-term management and maintenance of such projects—Local authorities are having to face these challenges both alone and through partnership working.

This seminar will provide examples of how these challenges can be addressed through hearing from a wide range of experts and practitioners who are involved in re-forested the UK, as well as ensuring there are strategies and support networks in place to provide long-term stability to our existing and newly planted trees and woodlands.

Therefore, in light of all these requirements and the speed at which many of the tree planting schemes will need to be delivered, APSE intends that its Trees and Woodlands Seminar will be a MUST ATTEND EVENT for its members who have a direct responsibility for tree planting and management, as well as to those officers and elected members who have an interest or influencing role in helping their local authorities to re-introduce trees and woodlands into their areas.
DEFRA will be outlining the purpose of The England Tree Strategy, and how local authorities can help deliver its aims and objectives to realise the multiple environmental, social and economic benefits.

The Woodland Trust will look at how when considering tree planting schemes; the need to consider the right places for the right trees to ensure the maximum benefits and long-term sustainability.

The City of Trees will outline how the use of digital technology has allowed the economic and environmental value of trees to be recorded and the wider benefits this is now bringing as a result.

Local authorities are having to deal, not only with existing tree stocks, but also future tree planting; therefore, West Lothian Council have developed a forward-thinking tree and woodland strategy to help ensure all their trees are cared for, both now and well into the future.

Planting trees and knowing where they are growing is important but there is a similar need to be able to monitor their progress and health. Many local authorities are now enlisting local tree wardens to help with this role and we will hear how a National Tree Warden scheme is helping local authorities to ensure tree wardens are provided with the requisite knowledge to be able to carry out their tasks.

Due to the drive to plant millions of trees across the UK there will be a need to source trees from a wide variety of national, and possibly international, tree nurseries. It will be critical to have effective biosecurity measures in place to ensure tree health and prevent the introduction of new pests and diseases. The Tree Council will outline the measures needed to be taken to ensure trees are as healthy as possible both before planting and after planting.

Who should attend?

- Chief executives
- Elected members
- Service directors
- Arboriculturalists, Parks, grounds maintenance, horticulture, landscape and green space professionals
- Climate change officers
- Biodiversity officers
- Policy officers
- Officers responsible for external funding bids
- Trade union representatives
- Parks/landscape consultants
- Academic researchers
- Contractors and suppliers
- Voluntary organisations

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### Delegate Packages

**What’s included?**

The delegate fee covers attendance, and documentation including a video showreel following the event.

- APSE member delegate fee: £99 + VAT
- Non member delegates fee: £149 + VAT
- Commercial delegates: £249 + VAT

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