



Caírde na Coil le / Forest Friends Newsletter

Issue 11

December 2007

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EDITORIAL: *by John Haughton*

**Forest Friends' Vision for Forestry in Ireland
Submitted to the Heritage Council's Forestry and
Heritage Review Public Consultation December
2007**

Introduction

The starting point for our presentation is the Earth Conference 1992, particularly the section on biodiversity and the importance of local provenance. The world is a fragile place and the interconnectedness of its biodiversity is the key to understanding its functioning of which our species is but one. Forestry therefore should be looked at as part of the connectivity, whereby there are relationships and dependencies between all the parts, so that, for example, our forests and forest practices are connected with world forests. The future development of our forests should be looked at in the context of climate change and such reports as the UN Intergovernmental Panel's four reports on Climate Change and the Stern Report. Forests play an essential role in maintaining a high degree of climate equilibrium mitigating weather extremes and in the functioning of the earth's hydrological cycles. Forest Friends regard the following as important in any review of Irish Forestry. In the following presentation the importance of the numbered paragraphs are not rated or listed in order of priority. **Note: Continued on pages 6-9 inclusive**

2008 EVENTS/JAN/JUNE: Following the success of the first stage of the Glencree Valley Conservation Project it is proposed to involve volunteers on an on-going basis in carrying out field studies in the valley. Their input will be co-ordinate by the Spanish graduates led by Nabil Chahrour who are carrying co-coordinating the project.

The dates for the fieldwork are as follows:

- *Sunday January 27th*
- *Sunday February 24th*
- *Sunday March 30th*
- *Sunday April 27th*
- *Sunday June 25th*

Enquiries: Nabil at
085 7743101

- *Sunday July 27th Tree* Identification in the Arboretum St. Ann's Park Raheny, Dublin- meet at tennis courts 12.00

Check with Nabil beforehand to find out where to meet to begin the fieldwork. His phone number is 085 7743101. The objective of the fieldwork is to involve volunteers in the survey of the flora and fauna of the valley so that they can have an input into the final report. Bring weatherproof clothing and footwear, map and compass; a camera, a notebook and flora and fauna pocket identification booklets and binoculars. A magnifying glass is also useful.

GLENCREE PROJECT: The Glencree Conservation Project was begun in 2007 as part of our input into the National Biodiversity Week. Spanish students Sofia and Sergio have progressed this project by completing a survey of the valley and Nabil has recently taken over from them. He will be joined by two others at the end of January, namely Sara and Diana. The intention is that we would have a conservation plan for the valley with recommendations covering all aspects and we would present the plan to the relevant authorities. A scoping document was prepared to detail the work necessary and that is available to members. For further information contact Nabil. The Spanish students are each on a self-funding postgraduate scholarship from their universities. Forest Friends get the benefit of their research skills while they get valuable research experience and develop other skills.

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR VOLUNTEERS: Following our experience in organizing training programmes for our Ghanaian and Spanish volunteers, we have developed a training programme, based largely on the Glencree project but incorporating work experience at other centers also such as the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, the Dublin Food Co-operative and the Enviro radio programme on NEAR 90 FM. The intention is to develop this training programme further, involving more volunteers. At present John Haughton is directing the programme and Paul Barnes and Joe Dunne are acting as facilitators.

TREE NURSERY DEVELOPMENT:

Following several years of nursery development and tree planting, including plantings in Roundwood and Hollywood in County Wicklow, it is proposed to initiate a project whereby Forest Friends would acquire a piece of ground which it would have complete ownership of and where we would plant seedlings and bring them on to plant out in communities and other locations, rural and urban. The site should be easily accessible to our members and have ongoing supervision and management. Naoise Reynolds has come up with proposals and is committed to develop the project.

GHANA AND SENEGAL BRANCHES: We now have branches in both Ghana and Senegal. Both countries have important rainforests, which are fast dwindling. Forest Friends are working with members in these branches in support of their efforts and the efforts of other ENGOs in these countries so that we can achieve the objective of preserving the remainder of the rainforests and mangrove forests. As part of this initiative, John Haughton is planning to visit both countries in January 2008. This initiative is part funded by Forest Friends and John himself. In the course of the visit the Ghana branch will be formally constituted within the Ghanaian legal system as a charity and company limited by guarantee with no share capital. The visit is intended partly to fundraise so that the Ghana and Senegal branches can develop to their full potential. John will prepare a full report for the next edition of the newsletter. There is a direct connection between Ireland growing its own native hardwoods and the preservation of the rainforests of Ghana and Senegal.

CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS: In the course of the year several reports were prepared and submitted. One of these was the presentation of Forest Friends vision for forestry in Ireland, which has been sent to the consultants co-coordinating the inputs from various groups on behalf of the Heritage Council who will be issuing their report in due course. The preparation of this report and ones which preceded it including our submission of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government on the Kyoto Protocol, the submission to the Environmental Protection Agency on their review, and the submission to the Heritage Council with regard to their new plan. A submission is also in preparation for Comhar who are co-coordinating inputs from ENGOs into the National Biodiversity Plan, which is under review. The preparation of these reports and submissions require a lot of time and effort all done on a voluntary basis.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK: For the 2007 National Biodiversity Week, we initiated the Glencree Conservation Project and carried out a photographic survey on aspects of the flora and fauna. These were exhibited both in the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation and in ENFO, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government information center, St. Andrew Street, Dublin. It is proposed to carry out a survey of the attitudes of students in a third level educational institute towards environmental conservation and the importance of biodiversity as part of our input into National Biodiversity Week 2008.

FOREST FRIENDS WINTER SOLSTICE 06

In the glen of the heart
We forest friends gathered
To celebrate the turn of the year.
We planted some trees
And staked them in well
And chanted to help them to grow.

We laid out a circle of Holly and Oak,
A grove, and a well, and a fire.
With staff and cloak, drum candle and script,
Some acted the wheel of the year,
The turn of the earth, the Moon and the sun,
The struggle of Oak king and Holly,
The loving embrace of the triple Goddess,
Who protects twines and binds like the Ivy.

To the beat of the drum we danced round the fire
In the circle of Holly. And Oak
We chanted for peace in Nature and Kin.
Burned incense and washed away folly.
Then all trooped indoors like the old fairy hoards
Sat down to a meal of our bringing.
For it is the custom to bring to such feasts,
Food and drink for a meal all can share in.

After the food the children pursued.
Each other around every room.
While the adults sat there on wool covered chair,
Some talked of the stars sun and moon
A quiz about trees, a favourite poem,
A game of what tree's in that tune?
A sing along song, a refrain that hangs on
To the ghost in the heart and the room,

One could hear a pin fall, on a carpeted hall,
As a tale of old times was unfolded,
We all sat entranced, as word images danced.
Of the Earth in despair, with the monstrous life there,
And Her wish for Her beauty to show,
Of wondrous Brigid with cloak all aglow.
And the Gods from Tir Mbeo with their treasures in tow,
As they made her the Earth that we know.

FOREST FRIENDS WINTER SOLSTICE 06 Continued

Then like Brigid we wrapped ourselves up snug and warm,
And back to our world and our work we did swarm,
The fondest of memories etched on the brain,
Until the next feast, when we all meet again,

S.P.OD. (JOSEPH DUNNE)

Christmas joy.

We spend money on baubles, and things we don't need.
We pay Christmas homage to corporate greed.
We abandon Church, and fill shopping mall.
Our souls feel so empty we shop till we fall.
The corporate bank vaults are filled to the brim.
Earth Mother destroyed, we don't see the sin.
For cheap food and goods, and profits galore,
Live turkey carpets wall to wall on shed floor,
Chickens squashed in shoeboxes, lay eggs twice a day,
Humans in sweatshops slave hours for slaves pay,
For luxury food, baubles and clothes,
They pay with their lives we pay through the nose.
Christ's birth celebration? We borrow and buy
How could all this death and suffering bring joy?

S. P.O D. (JOSEPH DUNNE)

Christmas 06.

FOOD FIRST AND FIRST FOOD by Joseph Dunne

Organic foods, Natural foods or Whole foods? Some of the terms we use to describe the foods we consume are, in my opinion open to abuse of interpretation. For instance, some promoters of genetically modified crops and animals have claimed that their produce is organic in origin and, therefore, those crops on their own, or when used as ingredients in processed foods, should be entitled to an organic label. Processed foods do not occur in nature and therefore could not truthfully be described as Natural foods. I believe it is time to

FOOD FIRST AND FIRST FOOD Continued.

turn the clock back to the 1950's when the soil association coined the precise and explicit phrase "WHOLEFOODS" to describe unrefined food to which nothing has been added and nothing taken away. Therefore the foodstuff only contains wholesome food. This description could still apply to foods processed using methods which do not reduce the whole food value of the ingredients and do not contain any ingredients with a negative food value or unnatural origin such as chemical preservatives /colorants / taste enhancers or G.M.O's etc.

Are we just independent physical entities or complex multilayered entities with physical, mental and spiritual aspects? I believe the latter. My logic tells me that if I am a complex multilayered entity and I am a part of the natural world then the natural world is comprised of complex multilayered entities and I am –at one level- a part of a complex multilayered entity. The planet Earth is a complex multi layered entity and is, itself, part of a complex multilayered entity.

We believe we eat to replace old and worn elements of our physical bodies but when we eat we do more than that. When we consume plant life, for instance, we do not only consume the physical plant but the physical mental and spiritual aspects of the plant. The same rule applies when we consume animals or when animals or plants consume their food. When food plants are absorbed into our systems the physical components are taken and used to replace old and worn components of our physical bodies. The mental aspects enable us to understand the life experiences of the plant and to identify conditions, which could threaten the harmonious life of that plant or its kind. The spiritual aspects enhance our spirituality and help maintain our bond with all creation.

If this is true, and I believe it is, then what is the total effect of the diet of modern humans and the food we produce and eat? Well, the modern diet is mainly based on plant life, which is easy to grow in quantity, and has a long shelf life. The plants are imprisoned in fields with none but their own kind and fed nutrients, which have been manufactured in an unnatural way. Thus their mental and spiritual aspects are limited; these limitations are passed on to the plants and added to their limited experiences. We then consume those plants. The same applies to the animals that the humans consume. They are kept in either factories (where their contact with the natural world is negligible) or in field prisons (where their contact with the natural world is greatly limited) and are fed on manufactured foods, which would not be part of their natural diet. By consuming these plants and animals we are, perhaps, feeding our physical bodies but we are starving our mental and spiritual bodies. By starving those aspects of ourselves we are also starving those aspects of the Earth when she consumes us.

This situation is further exasperated by the way we prepare our foods. A large portion of the food we consume is processed, subjected to heat, cold, radiation, chemical assault and/ or torn down to its microscopic level and recombined in ways not found in nature. By so doing not only is the physical aspects of the food altered but the mental and spiritual aspects are also. We exasperate the problem further by subjecting our food to intense heat by cooking it, whether or not this is necessary, or even subjecting it to bombardment by microwaves. The net result is that when we, in our turn, are absorbed into the Earth, we carry a warped mental and spiritual awareness into the consciousness of the Earth. She is not aware of the dangers that we represent to her and does not try to stop us but, at some time, she is going to become aware and will remove us, as we do with malfunctioning organs. Or she may take a more holistic approach and just eradicate the humans who are part of the problem. Do you want to be one of those humans?

There is an old saying "we are what we eat", so when we consume food depleted in mental and spiritual energies we ourselves become depleted in mental and spiritual energy. The way we as a species are destroying the natural world and are eradicating the sacred spiritual sites of our ancestors is evidence of this

FOOD FIRST AND FIRST FOOD Continued.

lack of mental and spiritual energy. The only question is will the Earth eradicate us before we alter the Earth so much that she can no longer sustain us?

When faced with such an enormous problem we tend to feel powerless. What can one person do? Well there is another old saying "If you want to change the world change yourself" You could start by deciding to consume more natural, unprocessed local foods (by local foods is meant foods indigenous to the area where you reside). You could savour the delight of consuming some plants grown in wild free natural conditions. You could decide to eat food combinations, which do most to enhance your physical, mental and spiritual well-being. You could take the time to get to know your food before you consume it. Where has it come from? How did it grow? Did it have a natural life for its species? What are the usual physical, mental and spiritual aspects of this food form? Be at one with your food before you welcome it into your system and it becomes a physical mental and spiritual part of you. You could decide that unessential foodstuffs, which cause unacceptable environmental distress, have no place in your body. You could become part of a food Cooperative and make collective decisions about the food you purchase and consume. Or, ultimately, you could become a recluse and live entirely on natural wild indigenous foodstuffs, which you forage yourself. It's your life and your adventure- live it to the full! S.P.OD. 2005-05-29 (Joseph Dunne)

Forest Friends' Vision for Forestry in Ireland

1. **The Irish Landscape:** Forests have been an essential part of our landscape from times immemorial. These forests contained a variety of primarily deciduous hardwoods. The character of our landscape has to be viewed in this context. Understanding the historical context whereby the forest landscape changed fundamentally should be a starting point for future planning.
2. **Rainforests:** From a global point of view, the Rainforests are in a sense the lungs of the world. They are also the richest areas of biodiversity and the source of at least half of the world's healing processes. They also represent the best-planned forests although not planned by man. They should be examined as a kind of template, which cannot be replicated but approximated to.
3. **Ireland and the Rainforests:** Ireland at present imports more wood from the rainforests per capita than any other EU country. By growing our native trees, which are mainly hardwoods, we will help to preserve the rainforests.
4. **Sylva culture:** Based to a certain degree on the rainforest model, Sylva culture, or the way different species can best co-exist and thrive best should be practiced.
5. **Monoculture:** In contrast to Sylva culture, monoculture represents the present ethos in Irish Forestry. This practice, which was instigated by the well-known plant collector Augustine Henry, runs contrary to the principles espoused by Forest Friends Ireland and enunciated in these short paragraphs.
6. **Permaculture:** As understood here, permaculture seeks to integrate woodland into the fabric of the farm or the holding, where woodland knits in to the design, layout and ethos of the enterprise rather than being added on and managed as a separate function. The small forest is integrated with horticulture, gardening, shelterbelts, establishing and maintaining microclimate, animal husbandry, the protection of wildlife and pest control.
7. **EU Policy and Practice:** The EU to date facilitates the present monoculture policy by its heavy subventions made through the Community Support Framework (CSF). While in place it militates against the kind of innovations needed to achieve sustainable forestry in Ireland based in the main on the planting of indigenous hardwoods.

Forest Friends' Vision for Forestry in Ireland (contd)

8. **Continuous Canopy Forestry:** The fact that native Irish tree species mature at different timescales would facilitate a selective felling policy, so that a continuous forest canopy can be maintained. This would facilitate the preservation and movement of wildlife, above and through the forest. The present clear felling policy disturbs wildlife and leaves huge scars on the landscape.
9. **Acidification:** The present Government policy, which consists of planting exotic coniferous non-native species, mainly Sitka Spruce results in increased acidification of watercourses. Extensive planting in upland areas, results in serious damage to spawning grounds and extensive reduction in fish stocks in lakes and rivers.
10. **Pesticides:** The extensive use of pesticides is a cause of great concern to Forest Friends. This policy includes the use over time of carcinogens including Lindane, Peremasect and Cypermethrin. The effects and persistence of these has not been adequately researched and quantified from the point of view of health and safety. Run-off from extensive plantations such as the Wicklow uplands feeds into reservoirs, which supply water to Dublin an area of high population. The precautionary principle should determine future policies in this regard in our opinion.
The control of the Pine Weevil has been achieved in Irish forestry through chemical control.
From the late 1950's until 1975 DDT was the insecticide of choice. From 1976 to 1998 Coillte used Lindane. In 1999 Coillte replaced this with permethrin. This is a synthetic pyrethroid.
Permethrin was only used up until 2003 for two reasons:
 1. Permethrin is named on the FSC highly hazardous chemical list;
 2. To continue the use of permethrin required the generation of additional data, which the manufacturers chose not to provide.The use of permethrin ended in 2003. Coillte are now using alpha-cypermethrin and cypermethrin.
Alpha-cypermethrin and cypermethrin are also named on the FSC highly hazardous pesticide list.
Coillte Teoranta has now applied for derogation for cypermethrin. Like permethrin cypermethrin is a synthetic pyrethroid.
Pyrethroids are synthetic forms of pyrethrins: The World Health Organization explains that all synthetic pyrethroids are neuropoisons acting on the axons in the peripheral and central nervous systems by interacting with sodium channels in mammals and/or insects. The impact on the nervous system is toxic.
11. **Importation of Alien Species:** The importation and planned proliferation of the now prevalent species, Sitka Spruce and placing it in an environment devoid of the forms of life associated with it in its natural environment, contrasts with native species such as oak which have a multitude of life forms associated with it making it part of more viable and sustainable ecosystems. This factor, together with the extensive plantations of the single species, without the forms of natural predation which would occur in its natural environment, make it highly vulnerable to predators such as the pine weevil, which could wipe out the entire crop. The effects of what can be regarded from a purely environmental point of view of the over use of pesticides, contrasts with the essential role of trees in purifying the hydrological cycles of the earth.

Forest Friends' Vision for Forestry in Ireland

(contd)

12. **Effects of Present Forestry Practices on views and prospects:** Forestry practices to date have resulted in the blanket covering of many hills valleys and scenic areas with the monoculture already mentioned. This results in the blocking of views and prospects of some of the most scenic areas of Ireland's unique landscapes. The examples are legion including extensive areas of the Wicklow and Munster mountains and their hill walking 'Ways', parts of Connemara and Donegal, North-West Mayo, the famous Munster "V", (a potentially sublime hairpin mountain climb, given the change to our native deciduous plantations), to mention but a few examples. Hill walkers are as it were condemned in a large part condemned to walk in tunnels of Sitka Spruce in otherwise highly scenic areas.
13. **Local Provenance:** There are considerable variations within species, due to local provenance; consequently seeds should be collected and grown locally thus preserving local characteristics. This principle should be an essential part of forestry policy and practice.
14. **Remnants of Ancient Forest:** The preservation of the genetic stock or the remnants of ancient and old growth forest and its utilization on the basis of local provenance, should be a priority. The collection and preservation of chronological records of species and their protection should be carried out utilizing existing and new legislation, such as, tree preservation orders, provided for in Planning legislation, a tool seldom used, which perhaps reflects the lack of urgency to take necessary and effective conservation steps.
15. **Coillte:** The establishment of the monolith, Coillte, with a remit whereby it has been able to function in a more or less autonomous way, as a company regarding itself primarily as a business operation, with relatively little regard to environmental, community, social equity accountability, militates against the development of a multi-stakeholder approach. As a result of this ethos, there is less regard to the interests of local communities, specialist interests and environmental non-governmental organizations.
16. **FSC and IFCI:** The granting of FSC status to Coillte appears to have been premature and the ongoing Irish Forestry Certification Initiative has run into difficulties due to the lack of balance in representation of stakeholders, traditionally excluded from the decision-making process. Having been found by the Forestry Stewardship Council to be in breach of its principles in this regard, the possibility of introducing Sustainable Forestry Management practices into Ireland in accordance with FSC rules has received a severe setback.
17. **Multi-stakeholder approach necessary:** Forest Friends believe that it is true to say that a proper multi-stakeholder approach has not to date been adopted by Coillte. Instead, there has been a kind of defensive or siege mentality, with resulting lack of empowerment of many communities and environmental stakeholders. Whatever the causes of this it is now time that local urban, town and village communities, local farming communities and environmental non-governmental NGOs, can participate in the process with parity of esteem, where their inputs would be sufficiently valued and, and in so far as is practicable, stitched into future forestry policy and practices. We believe that it is true to say that the public is more favorably disposed to the planting of native trees rather than the present policy. There has been negative feedback with regard to present practices.

Forest Friends' Vision for Forestry in Ireland

(contd)

18. **Funding of Forestry NGOs**: It is true to say that funding can and has in the past been used somewhat as a control mechanism, based at times on the extent to which some NGOs have been supportive of the status quo in Irish Forestry, or at least have not been openly critical of it. It is time now to set up a funding process whereby forestry NGOs who are properly constituted with transparent accountability obtain funding as of right on the basis of mutually agreed criteria. The Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government have set up such a system, which apply to ecological environmental non-governmental organizations. The process used by the above department which has been tested and improved over a number of years, could be used as a model to facilitate an inclusive participation process in the forestry area.
19. **Eco-Tourism**: It has been demonstrated abroad that forestry policy based on indigenous species where flora and fauna can flourish while maintaining the forest, and harvesting selectively attracts tourists in greater numbers. A good example of this phenomenon is the reversal of forestry policy in Vermont, New England, where the brilliance of the fall, now attracts vast numbers of eco-tourists for the reason of its brilliance alone, resulting from the proliferation of native deciduous species.
20. **Recreational Potential of Forests- Accessibility and Enjoyment**: It is true to say that the true potential of recreational use of our forests is far from being realised to its full potential. More targeted promotions are needed to do so, based on a multi-agency approach. Some important progress has been made with regard to access through farming lands, led by minister O'Cuiv. This is to be highly commended.
21. **Development of Forest crafts and skills**: Forest Friends Ireland contend that the development of a forest strategy which is based primarily on our native diverse species, would facilitate the greater development of forest crafts and skills, including, coppicing, pollarding, wood architecture and wood carving.
22. **Timescales for the Development of Forestry in Ireland based on the Principles of Biodiversity and Sustainability**: Forest Friends Ireland/Cáirde na Coille maintain that the present monoculture forestry policy should be reversed in favor of one based on the principles enunciated at the Rio Conference 1992 and shortly to be further developed at the Bali, Indonesia, Conference 2007. We maintain that a short term, medium and long term plan should be developed so that within agreed timescales the present policy would be reversed and we would end up with forestry based principally on the growing of our native tree species. The timescale for this to be achieved would be for discussion and agreement by all the interests involved in Irish Forestry, with safeguards built in at all stages, to make the transitions palatable to all.
23. **Economic Viability of Growing our Native Hardwoods**: Clinch has aptly demonstrated that a forestry policy based on the growing our hardwoods is sustainable from the point of view of economics, environment and social equity. Furthermore innovation and advances in technology for example developments in lamination and wood reconstitution make the growing of some species more viable economically. To bring about the necessary reversal of policy and practice would involve changes in attitude, new legislation and appropriate incentives where appropriate.

“Forester -- Victor Schauberger Holds Key to Energy Crises”

(Article by Paul Barnes – Vice Chairperson Forest Friends OCT. '07)

A humble forester, with over four hundred years of forestry experience in his family history, has come forward with a range of practical solutions to major problems facing the world today. They include the following:-

- **An unlimited source of free energy produced by a devise known as an Implosion Motor, using wind, or water Vortexes.**
- **Better methods for the storage and transportation of clean tap water.**
- **Fresh energised clean drinking water,**
- **Fertiliser free healthy soil,**
- **Increased agricultural production,**
- **Improved forestry management,**
- **Restoring life to dead rivers,**
- **Anti-gravity transportation.**

(See “Video Google” then “Nature was my teacher – The Vision of Victor Schauberger”)

I've waited many years to see this heading appear in the pages of environmental journals or newspaper articles that purport to be in the business of seeking solutions to some of the world's environmental problems and energy needs. But alas, it rarely happens. So I've decided to write an article myself.

The statements behind the above title is in fact true, and referees to one of my environmental heroes, Victor Schauberger who died in 1958, when I was just a boy. Victor was born in Austria in 1885 the son of a forester. His father wanted to send him to university. All Victor wished to do was work as a forester as his ancestors had done for over four hundred years before him.

Victor, who had incredible abilities to immerse himself in nature, enabling him to understand its laws and secrets, feared the damage that a university education could cause to his natural sensitivities.

Indeed, when you consider the world of science at this time was well down the road in its exploration of **Exploding Energy**, e.g. combustion engines and the use of fossil fuels, While Victor's explorations and discoveries were to take him in the complete opposite direction, that of **Imploding Energy** in nature e.g. from tornadoes and galaxies, to the natural vorticular movement and power within water and wind. Therefore attendance at a university at such a time, for Victor, could have resulted in the world not yet benefiting from his incites and experiences.

“Forester -- Victor Schauberger-Holds Key to Energy Crises”
(Article by Paul Barnes – Vice Chairperson Forest Friends OCT. '07)
(Continued)

As it is, the world has yet to take full advantage of the broad range of knowledge and practical solutions Victor brought regarding, the power within energised water, sustainability in forestry, the health, and nutrition of our soil, and above all, access to free abundant **Imploding energy**, based on wind and water Vortexes.

A Challenge to Environmentalists

When you take into account the fact that many environmentalists have never even heard of Victor Schauberger, never mind know of, or understand the impact of his work, you get some idea of the catch up required of many genuine people when it comes to presenting to the world a more comprehensive range of solutions to the so called energy crises and other environmental problems we face today.

At one time in his life Victor was requested to present his discoveries to Hitler, who was aware of his work. As it turned out Hitler wanted to provide Victor with the resources to develop his ideas. However the powerful scientists of the time, working with Hitler, were inclined to have Victor declared insane or killed. Such was their lack of understanding as to his approach, and their inability to duplicate and comprehend the nature of the phenomena Victor observed in nature, from the confines of their laboratories.

Initially Victor avoided working with Hitler and the scientists of the Third Reich. However after the Second World War started he was forced, under pain of death, to work on silent propulsion systems, based on his Implosion Motor, for the German Air Force and Navy. This work resulted in the production of a disc shaped craft, which is said to have come into use at least four months before the end of the war. Archive footage of Victor's disc are available on the web in an interesting video titled “UFO's and The Third Reich. ”

Are we afraid to look at this information for solutions?

Earlier this year I attended an exhibition set up by a number of environmental groups and NGO's. The purpose being to draw attention to, and propose solutions for, environmental issues, to those in power in Government today in Ireland. While the exhibits were commendable for what they did highlight and present as solutions to environmental problems, what struck me were the solutions significant by their absence.

"Forester -- Victor Schauberger-Holds Key to Energy Crises"
(Article by Paul Barnes – Vice Chairperson Forest Friends OCT. '07)
(Continued)

For instance when it came to alternative energy sources being promoted, we saw the expected wind, wave, solar, biomass, and even nuclear, showing up. Many Environmentalists would not agree with everything promoted about each of the above alternative energy sources. With some, such as nuclear, being totally out of the question.

However we're told we must be informed and open to all the issues to make the right decisions in an open, free, and democratic society. So the argument goes. Therefore why are the so called "Zero Point" energy systems left out of such a "free" debate? Is it perhaps because they do hold the real workable solutions the vested interests are afraid the world may find out about, and begin to demand. True Environmentalists should be aware they are not being used as gatekeepers for such vested interests. We urgently need to demonstrate our freedom from such interests.

Being truthful, very few politicians turned up during the day, so while invited speakers were doing their presentations from the stage, and taking questions, I took the opportunity to ask why we were not highlighting the work of such people as Victor Schauberger and his Implosion Motor, (see above web reference,) Nicola Tesla and Electromagnetic Energy (Ref. "You-Tube, The Missing Secrets of Nicola Tesla) and others such as T. Townsend Brown with Electrogravitic Systems. (Google "T.Townsend Brown, Electricgravitic effect.)

I was somewhat shocked to realise that the level of awareness of such developments throughout our history, in such otherwise well informed and educated company, was almost nil. Or else fear of ridicule prevented people openly expressing their interest.

This is indicative of the extent of the job to be done in breaking down the barriers of fear, prejudice, and ignorance amongst environmentalists, in order for us to be prepared to look at the role these forms of energy have to play in our present world and into the future.

“Forester -- Victor Schauberger-Holds Key to Energy Crises”
(Article by Paul Barnes – Vice Chairperson Forest Friends OCT. '07)
(Continued)

Are we being purposely directed away from these solutions?

The information filtering through the environmental movement is highly controlled by the many powerful vested interests that have been standing in the way of our progress as a civilisation for over a century now. It is important that we recognise this fact and question why we remain so ignorant of the many breakthroughs, which have already surfaced but remain unavailable to the public as yet.

I can already hear a chorus, saying, Rubbish if such technology existed how could we not have access to it in a world crying out for clean sustainable energy supplies. If that is the response, I would invite people to inform themselves of the true state of affairs by going to a web site “aero2012.com” where they will learn of an organisation called “Advanced Energy Research Organisation, (AERO.)

The Coming Energy Revolution

Advanced Energy Research Organization (AERO), LLC is a new research and development group formed to develop and strategically protect new energy and propulsion technologies. It is their goal, utilising a unique **strategic approach**, to bring forth these new environmentally sound technologies to replace virtually all fossil fuel, internal combustion and ionizing nuclear technologies within 20 – 30 years.

If you are at all serious about being part of the solution to the problems we presently face on our earth; please take the time to visit this site for yourself. On doing so you will not only gain access to the broad range of up to date research carried out in these fields, but you will also come to learn of the history of opposition to such technologies ever reaching the open market. (Much of this information is available on the site in video presentation format by clicking on “Latest News “in the left hand tool bar.)

"Forester -- Victor Schaubberger-Holds Key to Energy Crises"
(Article by Paul Barnes – Vice Chairperson Forest Friends OCT. '07)
(Continued)

However all is not lost, as you will also come across the **"Strategic approach"** being adapted by AERO in addressing this problem. In accessing this information make sure you firstly tune into the presentations of Dr. Steve Greer, who is the CEO of AERO.

I promise you will not be disappointed and may in fact feel quite challenged, if not delighted by the range, power, and scope of the presentations.

I make no apologies for not going into the details of the proposed solutions in this article, and it would not be possible nor desirable for me to do so. The video presentations on the web do this job to much greater effect. I also make no concessions for those who claim they have no access to the internet to follow up on web references I've provided. If you are in any way moved or motivated to be part of the solution by informing yourself, you will find a way to access this crucial information.

Become Part of the Solution

As part of my role in helping to get this information out to a much broader public, I'm setting up a series of video presentations based on this information. The events will be directed to anyone who would like to be informed of these matters, and will also be used to create a network of committed people who will help in a variety of ways to bring these technologies into the public domain. I should state here that this is a worldwide effort and involves many people working in every field of endeavour from the highest levels down. However, everyone can contribute in their own way to saving our environment and free access to all the available information is a vital aspect of any future solutions.

The dates and location for these presentations will be available on Sunday 14 Oct. 2007 at the Forest Friends annual talk being held in the National Botanic Gardens, time 2.30pm.

In the meantime, when you access the web site of AERO at www.aero2012.com, by going to "Latest News" and then clicking "Green Salon." In the first item, you will come on a range of presentations, which happened at just one of many such small informal gatherings of knowledgeable, influential and courageous people from within the present systems of government, industry, military and intelligence services, working hand in hand with the people involved in inventing and developing these so called "Over Energy" systems. There are also many radio interviews available on the AERO site. Enjoy.

GHANA REPORT by LAURENCE BLANKSON AMISHER

Forest Cover is Less Than One Million Hectares

Current estimates of Ghana's Forest Cover stands at less than 1 million hectares, the Forestry Commission has said. The country's forests are said to be depleting at an alarming rate and affecting forest dependant communities and the nation at large. "At the beginning of the twentieth century, Ghana had an estimated forest cover of 8.2 million hectares. By independence, the forest cover had shrunk to about four million hectares," the commission said.

It is estimated that since the country's independence from Britain in 1957 the annual deforestation rate has been averaging 65,000 hectares per year. Deputy Minister of Lands and Forestry, Clement Eledi once attributed the problem to the failure of Ghana's Forestry and Wildlife policies and strategies to ensure that forest and wildlife resources were managed on economically viable, socially beneficial and environmentally sound principles. Mining alone is said to deplete two million acres of forested land each year.

Currently very little closed forest is said to remain outside the forest reserve network with much of it in small-scattered patches in swamps and sacred groves. Environmentalists say that granting the miners permits to enable them operate in the reserves will result in the decimation of the remaining forest tucked away in the reserve.

Other reasons for the fast pace of the deforestation in the country according to the commission are " a phenomenal increase in population leading to pressure on forests and forested lands, expansion of agriculture, wild fires and uncontrolled logging as well as the production of wood fuel". The FAO country report on Ghana confirms that two thirds of the population and most of Ghana's economic activities are concentrated in its forested areas

Meanwhile it is said that forests play an important role in the nation's socio-economic development. Timber exports alone is said to have fetched the country an estimated \$214 million in revenue. As Ghana celebrates fifty years of nationhood, the Forestry Commission wants Ghanaians to spend some time to reflect on the contribution of forestry to the country's socio-economic development and the need to ensure its sustainability. The commission is therefore launching an annual memorial lecture on the 5th of December in honour of Johnny Francois, the first Ghanaian Chief Conservator of Forests who pioneered forestry practice in Ghana.

Source: Public Agenda (Accra – Ghana)

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SENEGAL BRANCH REPORT (letters from Senegal)

Hi John,

As you can see I'm too busy now since we're invited now to take part in several projects here in Senegal. I want to say that we're well known now in my area. That is why we are always contacted by the local authorities to get involved in some projects in the bush. That's the reason why I am too busy traveling all the time to see how my members are working and encouraging them. But be sure that we're doing a good job here...

Vincent Bohagne Minkass
Senegal Branch Forest Friends
July 2007

Contact/Senegal: Vincent Bohagne Minkass
email: bahogne@yahoo.fr

Hi John

Happy to be back and happy to be busy too with the forest friends here in Senegal. I'm very happy to have given my help to the others and happy to be appreciated there. I was back last Friday but we were need by our local authorities to sensitize those repairing fridge to avoid emitting dangerous gas for our environment. So we did it in our town in three groups. But our members took part to the national day in August. On Thursday, we are going to plant trees in a high school Lycée Djignabo and after that before the opening of the school, I will have to go and see how our planted trees are behaving.

Vincent Bohogne Minkass
Chairman
Senegal Branch
Forest Friends

September 2007

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Forest Friends Ireland, P.O. Box 7814, Dublin 1. Ireland

FEES: Individual...€30 Family...€60 Schools...€60 Student /Unwaged/Senior Citizen...€15 (Please Tick)

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

EMAIL:

METHODS OF PAYMENT

CHEQUE/POSTAL ORDER

For the appropriate amount made payable to “**Forest Friends Ireland**” at the above address /or

BANKER’S ORDER

I/We authorize you to payannual payments of € commencing on the Day.....Month.....Year.....

To the account of:
Forest Friends Ireland Ltd.
Bank of Ireland
2 College Green
Dublin 2

Account no: 33721955 Sort Code: 900017

To the Manager (your bank)

Bank’s Postal Address

Name of Account

Account Number

Date

Signature(s).

Please return to: Forest Friends Ireland, P.O. Box 7814, Dublin 1. Ireland

Further information at www.forestfriends.ie

Telephone: 353 01 8325415

jjhaughton@gmail.com or wjmaher@iol.ie

Petition to Minister Mary Coughlan

To Minister Mary Coughlan
Minister for Agriculture
Dáil Éireann, Kildare St., Dublin

Dear Minister, I wish to support the following campaigns of Forest Friends/Cáirde na Coille:

1. To reverse the present Irish Government's forestry policy of planting mainly a monoculture of Sitka Spruce in favor of planting Irish native trees. This is justifiable on economic, environmental and social equity bases. It is the only forestry strategy which is sustainable in the context of a national biodiversity approach based on the principles enunciated at the Earth Summit Conference in Rio in 1992:
2. To ensure that the forests of the Irish People, (at present managed by Coillte) are not privatized. This would be contrary to the national interest, to the principles of conservation and would create serious problems of public access, such as are at present enjoyed by the people of Ireland.

Name.....

Signature.....

Address.....

Phone no.....

NB Please cut out and send the above request to Minister Mary Coughlan, Dail Eireann, Kildare Street, Dublin

Forest Friends Ireland

Postal Address: PO Box 7814 Dublin 1, Ireland.

- www.forestfriends.ie
- www.cairdenacoille.org
- www.cairdenacoille.com

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Joseph Dunne

0876490573 E-mail:

Forest Friends Ireland Supports the Global Forest Coalition's Policy Here Outlined in Order to Protect Forests

Governments meet in Bali, Indonesia for the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 3-14 December 2007. With 20-25% of annual carbon emissions being caused by deforestation, protecting our forests is a main priority

This problem is made even more important because forests are a key part of the earth's carbon and hydrological cycles. Without forests rainfall will fail in many regions. Yet forests themselves are being impacted by climate change and may already be losing their ability to regulate the planet's climate. Further increases in temperature threaten to increase heat stress and drought, causing forests, particularly tropical forests, to become net sources of emissions, rather than stores. Furthermore, deforestation can also trigger irreversible ecosystem dieback.

Governments and intergovernmental organisations, including the World Bank, have responded by submitting a number of proposals concerning 'Reducing Emissions from Deforestation' (RED) and, in the case of the Bank, a proposal to launch a Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. However, these proposals, especially those that argue that forests should be included in carbon markets as offsets, fall far short of what is needed to combat climate change swiftly and effectively.

Carbon trading and offsetting are being used as a smoke screen to ward off legislation and delay the urgent action needed to cut emissions and develop alternative low-carbon solutions. At the same time they encourage businesses, governments and people to continue with or even increase unnecessary polluting activities - reducing life to a commodity to be bought and sold.

Yet the UNFCCC's project- and trading-based emissions reductions schemes to date have been totally ineffective in terms of their ability to significantly reduce emissions. The UNFCCC's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which was launched in Kyoto in December 1997, was intended to allow countries with emissions reductions targets under the Kyoto Protocol to invest in projects that lead to developing countries being able to reduce their emissions more cheaply.

The CDM has not worked. Projects have tended to lead to excessive profits for business, whilst generating investment for many projects that would have happened anyway. Several years of carbon trading have not stopped increasing rates of greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, studies show they may be resulting in an overall increase in emissions. Many projects are not 'clean' nor are they leading to poverty alleviation or sustainable development, as intended.

The World Bank has an equally appalling track record in relation to carbon funding, not least because it continues to fund oil, gas and mining projects, despite recommendations from its own review which suggested most of these projects be rapidly phased out; and as a broker it has a vested interest in promoting carbon trading. Its planned Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) – intended to channel carbon finance from donors to recipient countries - could also have serious negative social and environmental impacts.

The proposed RED policies could trigger further displacement, conflict and violence, as forests themselves increase in value they are declared 'off limits' to communities that live in them or depend on them for their livelihoods. Women and Indigenous Peoples are the least likely to profit from the destruction of forests and therefore also the least likely to receive compensation. Carbon finance mechanisms result in forests being transferred or sold off to large companies who aim to acquire profitable 'carbon credits' at some point in the future.

Carbon markets, like other commodities, are also proving notoriously volatile. Far from creating a predictable commercial environment and financial flows, the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme Phase I, for example, has had "*very questionable effects*" on "*the extent to which emissions are reduced, and the extent to which it provides a stable and effective carbon price*" (UK Environmental Audit Committee, 28 February 2007). The protection of forests and our climate is essential to all our futures and should not be subject to the vagaries of the market.

Forest Friends Ireland Supports the Global Forest Coalition's Policy Here Outlined in Order to Protect Forests (continued)

Recommendations

We are calling for governments to:

- **Address the direct and underlying 'drivers' of deforestation and the destruction of biodiversity in other ecosystems which are also critical to climate stability** by reducing demand for agricultural and forest products and energy; removing trade and investment liberalisation rules that fuel deforestation; and stopping corruption.
- **Ensure that all forest protection programs are based upon and uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples (as laid down in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), women and local communities**, by prohibiting any actions that seek to exclude Indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities from 'conservation' areas. Outstanding land and tenure questions and the free and prior informed consent of affected communities should be addressed as a prerequisite, before the implementation of any such programs.
- **Give the highest priority to halting the development, production and trade of agrofuels, and suspend all targets and other incentives**, including subsidies, carbon trading and public and private finance related to the development and production of agrofuels.
- **Keep forests out of carbon finance mechanisms, which are unpredictable, inequitable and discourage the reduction of emissions at source.** This includes keeping forests out of the Clean Development Mechanism and all carbon trading initiatives; and rejecting the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).
- **Ensure that developing countries are assisted in their efforts to protect their forests with well targeted, predictable and sufficient financial and other support**, in the form of an international fund that rewards the complete rather than partial cessation of deforestation; supports policies that promote community-based forest management and reforestation, natural regeneration and ecosystem restoration; and finances a global forest fire fighting fund and expertise, to assist countries unable to prevent or stop out-of-control forest fires.
- **Redirect the very substantial amounts of public funds, tax exemptions and other forms of subsidies currently provided to the fossil fuel and agrofuels industries, into avoided deforestation assistance funds, the effective promotion of public transport and the development of solar, wind, geothermal, wave and energy efficiency technologies**, (Government spending on energy subsidies currently totals US\$250 billion per year.)
- **Ensure that funds are not used to compensate logging and plantation companies and others involved in large-scale deforestation.**
- **Strengthen weak forest conservation policies and institutions**, encouraging bans or moratoria on industrial logging and forest conversion, and addressing corruption and lack of enforcement.
- **Implement a moratorium on all public financing and subsidies of oil, coal and gas exploration, and rapidly phase in subsidies for clean energy alternatives** with just transition programmes to phase out existing fossil fuel activities, whilst protecting ecosystems, communities and food production from agrofuels.

Simone Lovera
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