



# Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

## News

27<sup>th</sup> June 2011

### **The Best of Scotland's Woods**

A community group from Livingston and a Berwickshire based botanist beat off competition from around Scotland to pick up trophies at this year's Scotland's Finest Woods Awards. Environment & Climate Change Minister, Stewart Stevenson presented the Community Woodland Award to the Dedridge Environment Ecology Project and the New Native Woodlands Award to David Long at a ceremony at the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston (Friday 24 June).

Mr Stevenson also presented two Quality Timber Trophies - The Hunter Blair Trophy for silvicultural excellence in a single stand of trees and The John Kennedy Trophy for the best example of large scale forestry.

The Schools Award was won by Rosneath Primary School in Helensburgh, for their whole school project – Forest Schools Friday, which allowed all pupils to learn practical and curriculum focussed skills in the community woodland.

Mr Stevenson said:

“Scotland boasts a woodland heritage that is the envy of many and every year hundreds of thousands of people visit and enjoy Scotland's woodlands. But what most visitors don't realise is that those woodlands are often the result of decades of hard work, often by successive generations of visionary, committed landowners and practitioners.

“These Awards seek to identify and reward exemplar woodland projects managed to the highest standards for the benefit of their long-term sustainability and for the benefit of our biodiversity, our communities, our people and our economy.

**Scotland's Finest Woods, 27/2 North West Circus Place, Edinburgh EH3 6TP**  
**T: 0131 226 4665 F: 0700 608 7832 E: [admin@sfa.co.uk](mailto:admin@sfa.co.uk)**

“Promoting and encouraging effective and dynamic management will help ensure that our forest resource can meet the many demands made on it now – and in the future.”

**The Award winners are:**

**Community Woodland Award** - Dedridge Environment Ecology Project for Dedridge Burn Plantation, Livingston.

SFWA Director, Peter Wilson said, “This fantastic little woodland in the middle of Livingston is largely known only to local residents but with nature trails and wildlife sculptures competing for attention, it deserves to be known by many more. The enthusiasm and hard work of the local group is matched by professional woodland management and the ongoing involvement of local residents is testimony to the projects merit; a truly deserving winner.”

**New Native Woods** - David Long was presented with the Woodland Trust Scotland Trophy for Northwoode Native Woodland, Spottiswoode, Berwickshire.

SFWA Director, Peter Wilson said, “An excellent example of an individual’s commitment to create a native woodland through the restructuring of an existing conifer plantation through a combination of planting (primarily Oak) and natural regeneration (primarily Birch and Rowan).”

**Hunter Blair Salver for silvicultural excellence:** Lady Balgonie for Dalnahaiglish, Glenferness Estate, Nairnshire: for consistent woodland management of a single stand promoting the production of high quality timber for specialist markets.

**John Kennedy Trophy for best example of large scale forestry:** UPM Tilhill for Ramsaygrain East & Rashiegrain Forests near Hawick, Roxburghshire – for the quality of intensive operational management of mixed species crops, long term retentions and outstanding work in restructuring of commercial timber production forest areas.

For more information on the awards and on how to enter, visit [www.sfwa.co.uk](http://www.sfwa.co.uk)

**Notes to Editors**

1) The awards are run by an independent charity (Scotland's Finest Woods) in partnership with BSW Timber, Egger Forestry, Forest Education Initiative, Forestry Commission Scotland, Iggesund Forestry, Scottish Natural Heritage and Woodland Trust Scotland. Additional support was provided by Alba Trees; Central Scotland Forest Trust; Confederation of Forest Industries; Institute of Chartered Foresters; Royal Scottish Forestry Society; UPM Tilhill.

See [www.sfwa.co.uk](http://www.sfwa.co.uk) for further information.

**Media enquiries:**

Paul Munro, Forestry Commission Scotland press office, 0131 314 6507

Peter Wilson, Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, 07740 434 220 or 0131 226 4665