



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

2024 Awards Programme

Scotland's Finest Woods aims to highlight the best management of woods and forests across Scotland, and to showcase how they contribute to the wealth and wellbeing of Scotland's people. Our judges have been seeking out Scotland's finest woods and rewarding the pursuit of excellence for nearly 40 years!

There are six award categories featuring eleven separate competitions with a total of £10,000 in prize money available. Full details are given on the webpage for each category. In summary, they are:

Farm Woodland Awards – two competitions

The Farm Woodland Awards category demonstrates the [integration of trees](#) into farmland. This Award aims to demonstrate the added benefit of trees on a farm which may help the business to grow, become more resilient, or increase biodiversity. These competitions are open to farmers and crofters, and their young forest managers. Your entry can include more than one woodland block on the farm. There are two competitions, each with their own fantastic trophies and £1,000 prize money for the winner:

- The [Scottish Woodlands Farm Woodland Trophy for Young People - for a young active farmer/crofter and/or forester/woodland manager](#). You will be responsible for considering the options for the land and its management demonstrating excellence in the integration of farming and woodlands/forestry. Age criteria applies.
- The [Fountains Forestry Farm Woodland Award and the Lilburn Trophy - for an active farmer or crofter](#) demonstrating the highest standard of benefits being delivered to both the farming/crofting operation and quality of woodland management anywhere in Scotland.

New Native Woods Award

[New native woodland projects](#), either established by planting or natural regeneration, are invited to compete for this award. The [Woodland Trust Scotland Trophy](#) and £1,000 are available to be won in this category. Woodlands with 3 – 20 years' growth are eligible to enter.

Community Woodlands Award – two competitions

Community-based projects are invited to compete for this Scotland-wide award with two competitions. The award is sponsored by [Scottish Forestry](#) and supported by the [Community Woodlands Association](#) and the [Green Action Trust](#). The [Tim Stead Trophy](#) for the overall winner and a total of £2,000 in prize money are ready to be won:

- Enter projects by [small community woodland groups](#) such as community woodlands, urban woodlands or other projects which focus on involving communities with their woodland environment and thereby enhancing the lives of local people.

- Enter as a **large community woodland group** - you may have a member of staff or someone working with you and can demonstrate how your project contributes to sustainable development across the three strands of social, economic and environmental development.

Quality Timber Awards – three competitions

Focusing on growing quality timber, woodland owners and their forest managers are invited to compete in this category, sponsored by **James Jones & Sons Ltd**, **EGGER** and **Tilhill**. Three competitions are available in this category, each with a trophy and an overall total of £3,000 in prize money:

- Enter **small woods, a single stand or compartment of trees** where exemplary silviculture results in high quality timber production - the Hunter Blair Trophy and £1,000 cash prize.
- Enter **whole estates/forests** managed as multi-purpose forests in which high quality timber production is a major objective - the John Kennedy Trophy and £1,000 cash prize.
- Enter **new commercial woodlands** - the **James Jones & Sons Ltd Trophy** and £1,000 cash prize.

Climate Change Champion Award

This exciting and extremely topical Award was introduced in 2021 (to coincide with #COP26 in Glasgow) and is **open to any forest, woodland or a school or pre-school climate change related learning project**. A superb trophy and £1,000 of prize money will be available to the winner:

- Enter if you are carrying out exemplary **work related to forests and woodlands addressing climate change**. Your entry may focus **on mitigating** and/or **adapting to the changing climate** and/or **sharing knowledge/information** or **raising awareness** (including through education by schools and pre-schools) **about climate change**.

Schools Award and Early Years - two competitions

Schools and pre-school projects can enter this popular category. We have two competitions and are seeking out:

- **Scotland's most fun-packed School and Early Years' woodland projects** with a cash prize of £250 for each of the winning projects and a year's custody of the **Crown Estate Scotland Schools trophy** (a squirrel) or the specially commissioned **Early Years trophy** (an acorn).
- There are also fabulous additional prizes available at the Judges' discretion!

**Remember you need to be in it to win it so
don't be shy and enter your woodland project or yourself today!**

Key dates

- Entries open in January 2024.
- All entries have a closing date of midnight on **Sunday 31st March 2024** (Easter Sunday).
- Any entries received after the closing date will **not** be considered.
- Judges aim to notify shortlisted entries in April 2023 and visit selected sites during April/May.
- The 2024 prize-giving awards ceremony date will be advised after the end March closing date to those invited to attend in person.

Further Information on Entries

All Awards

Specific guidance for each Award category is available on the respective webpage at www.sfwa.co.uk. You can also follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Where a trophy is awarded, the winner will be able to look after it until next year's competition is underway. Cash prizes will be awarded as stated in the competition guidance. A certificate and plaque will be given to winners and any commended entries to record their achievement. All awards are made at the judges' discretion.

Schools Award and Early Years

In addition to prizes outlined above, a [Mag Post](#) from Caledonia Play and a special tree growing kit from [Alba Trees](#) are provided.

Award ceremony

The 2024 prize-giving awards ceremony event will be confirmed after the March closing date. **The Awards' Ceremony may coincide with the Friday of the Royal Highland Show i.e. 21st June 2024**, for those invited to attend in person and able to do so. For news, please check www.sfwa.co.uk and socials.

How to enter

Visit www.sfwa.co.uk to download and complete the short entry form for the category(s) you would like to enter. **Entries should be submitted by email (up to 10MB per entry) and unless otherwise agreed in advance. Entries are invited as soon as possible and by midnight on Sunday 31st March 2024 at the very latest. Late entries will not be accepted.**

For more information, see details on the Award category which interests you at: www.sfwa.co.uk or contact:

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