

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2006/2007

FEI Ayrshire Forest Cluster C/O East Ayrshire Woodlands,
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Welcome

Welcome to the January 2007 newsletter for the Forest Education Initiative Ayrshire Forest Cluster Group.

At present, the Ayrshire FEI Forest Cluster operates through the auspices of East Ayrshire Woodlands, which includes informal environmental education links with other like minded organisations and craftworkers throughout Ayrshire. We organise and participate in events and projects and are involved in a variety of initiatives throughout the region with various partner organisations.

FEI aims to increase the understanding and appreciation, particularly among young people, of the environmental, social and economic potential of trees, woodlands and forests and the link between the tree and everyday wood products.

FEI brings information to young people, in their homes, in schools and in colleges. Where possible, we encourage the public, especially young people, to use trees, timber and the forest environment for learning and gaining skills within their natural environment.

Traditional Crafts Event

The Ayrshire Forest Cluster is considering the feasibility of holding an event to promote traditional craft skills & methods, possibly in the Autumn / early Winter of 2007, at a woodland site which offers materials, space and access for activities such as charcoal burning demonstrations, green woodworking, weaving, traditional fence construction etc. We would welcome comments and any initial indications of potential involvement.

Pinclanty Forest, South Ayrshire

East Ayrshire Woodlands and the FEI Ayrshire Cluster Group are developing an upland education site at Pinclanty Forest near Barr. This has involved the creation of access tracks within the forest, developing the network of ponds and watercourses and work to create a learning trail both for educational purposes and for a range of ages and abilities.

The visitor experience will be enhanced through the provision of on-site interpretation, downloadable guides and information resources, together with the development of further features and structures to allow greater use of the site for community training and events. The site will be further enhanced by the construction of a bird hide / shelter from materials found in the forest. It is also intended to offer opportunities for practical projects such as shelter building and traditional craft skills for groups and individuals from the local community and from further afield.

We are working with Barr Primary School and Careers Scotland to develop an education & learning trail within the site, located near the new car park area.



New route clearance



Site of FEI shelter



Survivor Project

The successful 'Survivor' hazel coppicing & shelter building project which took place at Glen Afton Woods near New Cumnock in the Summer of 2004 with Yipworld.com will again take place in Summer 2007. Discussions are still underway as to the final details of the project, but it is unlikely to be subject to any FEI funding requirements on this occasion.



CSV Hazel Coppicing Project

The CSV group based at Hurlford Day Centre & Riverside Centre in Cumnock have been involved in a recent hazel coppicing project to provide a resource of walking sticks for visitors to Pinclanty Forest and also as a sale item to raise funds for the Ayrshire Forest Cluster at future events. Pictures from the project, when completed, will appear on the website in due course.

Get Involved with the Ayrshire Forest Cluster

We aim to promote woodland education through the development of projects and to develop an understanding of the processes involved within both timber industry and associated products and traditional craft skills & techniques.

The Cluster is seeking new members to promote woodland education throughout Ayrshire. There are various levels of involvement and the level of commitment can suit the individual or group. Typical members are:

- ? ARTISTS & STORYTELLERS
- ? CRAFTWORKING GROUP / INDIVIDUALS
- ? TEACHERS, YOUTH WORKERS
- ? (Timber / Forest Products / Paper) INDUSTRY
- ? CONSERVATION WORKERS
- ? EDUCATION ADVISORS
- ? ECOLOGISTS

Getting Involved – Industry Why?

- ? Good Local PR
- ? Good contact with local schools as a business link
- ? Community understanding of the modern timber industry / traditional craft skills & methods
- ? Potential future employees
- ? Fulfill educational obligations from Scottish Forestry Strategy 2006

What we are looking for from industry / craftworker contacts

- ? Basic agreement to host X number of school visits per year
- ? Basic agreement to deliver X number of in-school talks per year (optional)
- ? Supply a small range of samples / products for use within FEI promotion for website, events etc.
- ? Agreement to attend and / or supply information and products / display materials for Ayrshire FEI event(s)

Getting Involved – Schools Why?

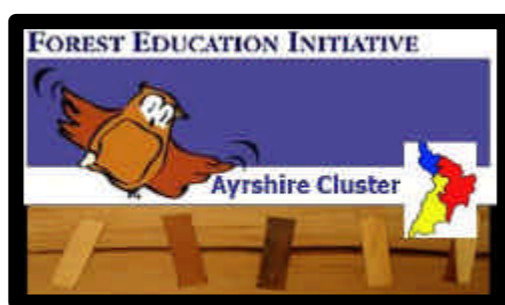
- ? Good contact with local industry - Business Links
- ? Education & curriculum links
- ? Understanding of the modern & local timber industry
- ? Potential future employers – inspiration for careers
- ? Support from your local FEI cluster group
- ? Receive talks from local industry
- ? Site visits for both teachers & pupils
- ? Sponsorship to enable travel to sites
- ? Specialized workshops in a woodland environment

How?

Contact the cluster group for information about opportunities in local woods or resources & contacts interested in promoting woodland education.

The FEI partnership fund offers opportunities for woodland education projects such as the learning trail at Pinclanty Forest and the Hazel Coppicing Project. Further information on FEI projects from other Cluster Groups can be found at online at:

www.foresteducation.org



Contact details

Please complete and return to:
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 www.eastayrshirewoodlands.co.uk/education.htm

Alternatively, please request an e-mail version of the form

Please complete the following to provide us with an up to date contact list for future newsletters and to assess interested numbers for future involvement.

NAME

(Main contact if part of a group)

GROUP NAME (If applicable)

LEVEL*

*(General categories: E.g. Craftworking, Artist, Storyteller, Forest Products Industry, Ecologist, Conservation Worker, Teacher, Youth Worker, Education Adviser, Other – please describe)

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TEL.

MOB

E-mail

WEBSITE

I would like to be on the Forest Cluster contacts list (Please circle or tick one) YES / NO

I would like to be on the contacts list but only receive the newsletter at present YES / NO

I would like to attend FEI meetings (Please indicate one) YES / NO

I / we are interested in becoming an active industry contact YES / NO

I / we are interested in becoming an active Craftworker / group contact YES / NO

I am interested in becoming an active Artist / Storyteller contact YES / NO

I am interested in becoming an active Ecologist contact YES / NO

I am able to provide demonstrations / workshops at FEI events YES / NO

If yes, please describe your activities / specialism together with any restrictions on your activity (e.g. weather, seasonal, location etc).

Receive future newsletter by

POST / E-MAIL

Your details will only be used specifically for FEI Ayrshire Forest Cluster Group contact.