



THE SUSSEX WOODCRAFT SOCIETY

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Hi everyone, here is your latest SWS newsletter.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

It was great to see members back at our club night in March. Thank you to those who brought along some of their work from last year's show and spoke a little about each item. Please remember if you have any suggestions for our annual competition piece this year please let me know. I have already had one excellent suggestion but it would be great to have a few more for the committee to look at and discuss. We will try and let you know ASAP, maybe by the May club night.

I am looking forward to this year's programme of speakers and there have already been a few more suggestions for topics to be covered.

LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER

As last month was a resume of our Christmas show, I am including members work in this section so I can include as many photos as possible.



FEATURE ARTICLE

NASA Confirms Earth Is Greener Today Than 20 Years Ago

March 1, 2019. The world is a greener place than it was 20 years ago, and China and India can take a major share of the credit for this.

A new study from NASA shows that the two countries with the world's biggest populations are leading the increase in greening on land. The effect stems mainly from ambitious tree planting programs in China and intensive agriculture in both countries.

This new insight was made possible by a 20-year-long data record from a NASA instrument (MODIS) orbiting the Earth on two satellites. There are now more than two million square miles of extra green leaf area per year, compared to the early 2000s – a 5% increase.

"China and India account for one-third of the greening, but contain only 9% of the planet's land area covered in vegetation – a surprising finding, considering the general notion of land degradation in populous countries from overexploitation," said Chi Chen of the Department of Earth and Environment at Boston University, in Massachusetts, and lead author of the study.

"When the greening of the Earth was first observed, we thought it was due to a warmer, wetter climate and fertilization from the added carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, leading to more leaf growth in northern forests, for instance," said Rama Nemani, a research scientist at NASA's Ames Research Centre, and a co-author of the study. "Now, with the MODIS data that lets us understand the phenomenon at really small scales, we see that humans are also contributing."

CONCERNS ABOUT OUR ENGLISH WOODLANDS

As our native oak trees continue to be blighted by devastating pests and diseases, scientists are warning that British varieties may no longer be the best choice for planting in our Woodland. Instead, they warn we may have to look at planting tougher foreign alternatives such as the American red oak or the Australian red oak. But it would be so sad to lose our ancient British oak trees which have played such a big part in British history.

GOOD NEWS

The Australian government is gearing up to plant a billion new trees, as part of a vast campaign aimed to meet the climate targets set by the Paris Agreement. The government estimates that the project, which will run until 2050, will eventually remove 18 million tons of greenhouse gases per years — an intriguing example of a less technical response to climate change.

The news dovetails neatly with new research, by researchers at ETH Zurich, that found that a widespread campaign of tree-planting worldwide could make a substantial dent in the world's net greenhouse gas emissions. Zurich researcher Thomas Crowther told *The Independent* that trees are "our most powerful

weapon in the fight against climate change.” A billion trees is an impressive start, of course, but it’s substantially less than the trillion extra trees that Crowther and his colleagues estimate the Earth could support.

“It’s a beautiful thing because everyone can get involved,” Crowther told *The Independent*. “Trees literally just make people happier in urban environments, they improve air quality, water quality, food quality, ecosystem service, it’s such an easy, tangible thing.”

We need to see many more initiatives like this. Brian

THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ

What timber is sometimes known as “Poor Man's Oak”?.....Answer on page 5

AMAZING TREES

Brazil Nut Tree

Towering above all the other trees in the Amazon Rainforest, the Brazil nut tree can reach over 160 feet. Known for its production of the Brazil nut, these delectable delights are produced inside fruit the size of a baseball and can weigh up to five pounds. The exterior layer of the fruit is so hard only the agoutis, a large rodent with sharp teeth, can break it open. The tree relies on the agoutis, bees and other rainforest plants for survival. Imagine if these species disappeared!

Habitation: Located in the Amazon Rainforest of Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru.



AMAZING TREE FACTS

The Longleaf Pine, native to the southern part of the United States, does not have heartwood until it is 18 or so years old.

THIS MONTHS JOKE SPOT

Four men are in the hospital waiting room because their wives are having babies. A nurse approaches the first guy and says, “Congratulations! You’re the father of twins.” “That’s odd,” answers the man. “I work for the Minnesota Twins!” A nurse then yells at the second man, “Congratulations! You’re the father of triplets!” “That’s weird,” answers the second man. “I work for the 3M company!” A nurse goes up to the third man saying, “Congratulations! You’re the father of quadruplets.” “That’s strange,” he answers. “I work for the Four Seasons hotel!” The last man begins groaning and banging his head against the wall. “What’s wrong?” the others ask. “I work for 7 Up!”

THE AMAZING WORLD OF WOOD

This month I am featuring a couple of photos from days gone by which I hope you will like. The huge logs on the train are American redwood tree trunks. Just to think that these would have all had to be cut down by hand as chainsaws were not available back then. Makes me break into a sweat just thinking of all that hard work involved.



FUTURE SWS TALKS

2019

April 10 TH	Malcolm Knight – Tottington Woodlanders
May 8 TH	AGM, Clive Emsley - Bluebell Railway.
June 12 TH	Alan Alyward, Woodland Trust
July 10 TH	Members talking about jigs/ guides they have made
August 14 TH	Mary Smith, Green Circle, Bedelands Farm.
September 11 TH	Weald and Downland Living Museum
October 9 TH	Lester Backshall, Guitar Maker
November	To be advised
December	To be advised

When you are out and about at wood shows or exhibitions, if you see any person you think might be a candidate to give us a talk, please do ask them or at least take a note of their details and pass it on to Robert Packer who has taken over from Wendy in organising our future talks or any of our committee member so we can maintain the great speakers we have had. We are always open to suggestions for new speakers and we do need your help and input to help with this.

Please also let me know of any shows or exhibitions you think may be of interest to our members so I can include them in the section below, especially events for next year.

EVENTS FOR 2019

May

25th 26th 27th WAKEHURST PLACE. Members of THE SUSSEX WOODCRAFT SOCIETY will be exhibiting their wares.

JULY

27TH 28TH WILDWOOD FESTIVAL at WAKEHURST PLACE. Several of our members will again be exhibiting their woodworking creations.

September

6th & 7th

Event: Yandles Autumn Woodworking Show

Location: Yandles & Son Ltd, Hurst Works, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6JU

Contact: Tel. 01935 822 207

Cost: FREE Entry, FREE parking

Hours: 10.00am to 5.00pm Friday, 10.00am to 4.00pm Saturday

One of the largest woodworking shows of the year. Charnwood's representatives will be there to demonstrate our range of bandsaws, table saws, planer thicknessers plus woodturning lathes and chucks.

Please note - as it is possible some shows may be cancelled or have the dates changed. Please check with organisers before travelling

ANSWER TO THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ

Answer..... Sweet chestnut, the timber of which looks like oak but unlike oak has no medullary rays.

AMAZING TREE FACTS

The Osage Orange tree's wood generates the most heat when burned.

The world's heaviest wood is Australian Bauhinia Red.