



# Scottish Woodlot Association

## Newsletter Spring 2016

**Woodlot:** a small area of productive forestry available for people to rent for sustainable timber production.

<http://scottishwoodlotassociation.co.uk/>



### Exciting opportunities for new Woodlot Licence holders

SWA is looking for new licence holders to take up woodlots of various sizes currently being negotiated with landowners near Stranraer (Corsewall Estate), Moniaive (Craigmuie), Balmaclellan and Hawick (the Town Wood).

Licence holders are usually local individuals with appropriate forestry skills who manage all forest operations in accordance with their sustainable forest management agreement and look after health & safety and public access matters. Interested? Visit the SWA website and get in touch!

### Charles Bloom Secondary School, Lumby, British Columbia

The SWA is in close touch with the Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations in Canada. They currently have 867 active woodlot licences in operation across the state (we have just 6 in Scotland, but we're growing!). One of these licences is held by the staff and students of Charles Bloom Secondary School and offers forestry courses to 17 and 18-year old students from five neighbouring High Schools. The courses are very popular and many of the students go on to become woodlot licence holders themselves.

We think this is a great way to give young people a start in woodland management and we also think it would be a very good thing to get going here in Scotland.

We sent the Charles Bloom students a batch of SWA materials including t-shirts and so on which they promptly took to the woods with their cameras! Here is Instructor Martin Tooms with students Michelle and Sheldon.



**The Scottish Woodlot Association Limited**

Registered in Scotland as an Industrial and Provident Society Reg. No. 2755RS





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### **Horse-Logging:** Steffi Schaffler



We are small-scale forestry contractors with a different sort of machine than most. We use our four horses to extract the timber to wherever it might need to go. It takes a horse a long time to be confident and strong in the woods but it will get better and better over the course of its life.

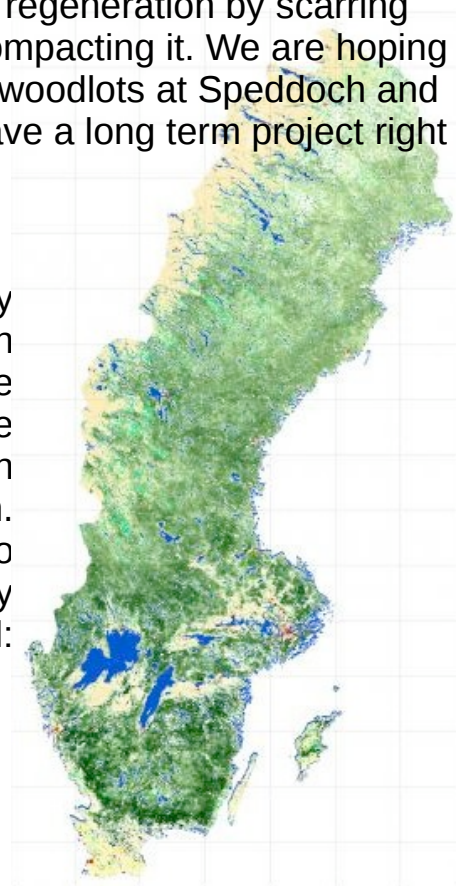
To us, the SWA approach is exactly how forestry should work - small(ish) scale, sustainable in all ways, financially, environmentally and humanely. Horse work takes a lot longer than modern equipment but the forest is better off for it, and so are we. In the long run the higher costs are offset by a stronger woodland, no cost in planting and repairing or preparing the site.

Horses leave the site better than they find it and our work encourages regeneration by scarring the ground without compacting it. We are hoping to take on one of the woodlots at Speddoch and are very excited to have a long term project right on our doorstep.

### **Woodlots in Sweden**

About half of all forest land in Sweden is owned by family enterprises. There are some 200,000 families with holdings of more than five hectares and most holdings are passed on from one generation to the next. The average holding is 50 ha, but the size varies greatly. The tradition of combining farming and forestry has been very common. Family enterprises have different objectives and also different priorities — this leads to a rich diversity of forestry practice. However, one traditional goal is common to all: sound long term management of the forest.

From “The Swedish Forestry Model”, published by The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, 2009.



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