

Letter of Support for the Woodland League Integrated Forest Management Proposal.

Native woodlands and forests are a treasure in the crown of nature. Few remain in Ireland. The same can be said of native trees that bear the age of centuries (ancient specimens).

These represent the germ plasm for the forests of the future, for if we are to have a future, we must have native natural forests. It will be necessary to plant trees and forests. Their mingling societies of native species represent a genetic memory of nature. This association of like minded plants has lasted for 350 million years. They are the survivors of low levels of atmospheric oxygen and high levels of carbon dioxide. The DNA fragment that sits inside each chloroplast in each and every leaf of all the native trees of Irish woodlands holds this memory code.

The mandate of the native woodland forests has always gone beyond the obvious.

Trees are the conductors in the vast symphony of life around us.

- (1) They supply oxygen by a thermodynamic process of the physics of electron capture. In other words the green of the leaves can capture sunshine and turn it into work or labour. All of life as we understand it depends on this labour.
- (2) They organise carbon dioxide out of the air into body-building sugars. This sequestration of gas renders the atmosphere safe to breathe. It has not always been so, in the life of the planet.
- (3) They promote the movement of pure fresh water in the soil out into the atmosphere. They do this by means of a specialised plumbing system of ultra fine carbon tubes called xylem.
- (4) Because they move water by means of a tight meniscus rise, they promote the health of streams, lakes, rivers, swamps, and fens. They have accumulated and stood over, on guard, the fossil waters of deep aquifers.
- (5) The lean nutrient leachate from forests drives oceanic life keeping the fine balance for the cyanophyta or unicells in check. This in turn eliminates toxic tides and oxygenates the sea water for all marine creatures and their reproduction.
- (6) The biochemical machinery of trees produces the greatest medical pharmacoepia known to man. Trees produce natural anti-biotics, anti-virals, fungicidal and anti septic compounds which act as an atmospheric health shield on land, sea and air.
- (7) Trees comb atmospheric pollution particles of less than 2.5 microns. In this they are aerial scrubbing machines cleaning the air we breathe.

- (8) Trees are staging grounds for the feeding trans-world migrations of butterflies, insects and birds.
- (9) Trees and hedgerows are sites for peening, which is the ability of a bird to change its pro-vitamin D into an active form of vitamin D. This promotes egg laying and reproduction. Birds are nature's pesticide patrol corps bar none.
- (10) Trees control weather with biological aerosols.

Trees, forests and hedgerows are beautiful. They speak to us about ourselves, our past present and future in a tapestry of life that we will never fully comprehend.

These are some of the reasons why the Pilot Project Proposal for Integrated Sustainable Forest Management in East Clare, Ireland should be taken seriously.

Signed,

Diana Beresford Kroeger - Scientist, Botanist, Agricultural researcher, Ancient woodland specialist, based in Canada.