

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Duke of Cornwall's Award for Forestry and Conservation

We are very pleased and honoured to announce a new and important award to be offered by the Society. This Award is to be a permanent recognition of the initiative the Society took with its Centenary Conference on Forestry and Conservation and which was addressed by our President, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. The President has graciously allowed the Society to use his title of Duke of Cornwall in the name of this Award. It will be made annually to the woodland owner, within a specified region, who it is considered has done most for conservation within the constraints of successful commercial forestry.

Under the Rules of the Award, conservation is defined as both landscape and wildlife conservation. Single woods and groups of woods of between 20 and 200 hectares will be eligible. The contribution that trees can make to conservation will not be limited to native species and conifers will be given equal opportunity with broadleaved trees.

The award will be made annually on a regional basis but there will be no final competition between the regional winners. The six regions are: Northern England, the Midlands and East, South-west England, South-east England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

A permanent trophy appropriately made in wood, will be presented to the winner and held for one year. There will be medallions and cash prizes for the winner and two runners up. Certificates of Merit may also be awarded. The first competition will be in 1985.

The Great Spruce Bark Beetle

The beetle, *Dendroctonus micans*, was discovered for the first time in Britain near Ludlow in August, 1982. Since then the Forestry Commission and private woodlands owners have spent a good deal of money on looking for and felling trees with signs of beetle infestation. The bark near any sign of attack must be removed, and attacked bark and ground sprayed with the insecticide Lindane. How is the campaign going? Will it succeed? Is it worth it?

To take the last question first: in Russia and western Europe during this century there have been severe outbreaks of *Dendroctonus micans* in Belgium and Germany 1897-1900, in Denmark 1947-50, in Soviet Georgia 1956-83 and in France from 1975 onwards. Overall losses from insect attack, from sanitation felling or from associated windblow have run into hundreds of thousands of trees. The relatively short cycles of outbreak in Belgium, Holland, Germany and Denmark have been attributed to "efficient survey and sanitation felling, later compounded with control by natural enemies or by chemical applications."

In Britain, about 35,000 infested trees were recorded in 1982-83 and about 20,000 in 1983-84. In both years some 85 per cent of infestations were in Norway spruce and all but a handful of the balance in Sitka