



## Global Recycling

Bandit chippers are available as bespoke models with infeeds from 4 to 36 inches, wheeled or tracked. They arrive from the USA on a stillage, and Global Recycling make them up to customer requirements, fitting items such as axles or track assemblies, lighting systems, platforms, conveyors, cranes and even dozer blades.

They come in seven different colours as standard, or may be painted in company colours. Further options for customisation are too numerous to mention, even on the smaller chippers.

*Global Recycling 01636 594360*



## Artcom Tradebridge

Artcom Tradebridge launched their new Scottrac OX14 mini forwarder at the APF. In fact it is a versatile tracked carrier suitable for transporting not just logs. It is available with an extendible trailer, and a winch with a loading boom made of special, Swedish steel. This enables a 300kg log to be loaded single-handedly in seconds. The winch has a 600kg pull.

Total machine weight, including winch and boom is 500kg. It will carry out 1.2 to 1.4 tonnes depending on ground conditions, at a price that is just a fraction of that of a mini-forwarder, compared to which it is much more manoeuvrable. It is powered by a 14hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard petrol engine.

Artcom Tradebridge are selling the OX14 worldwide, except in Sweden, the country in which it is manufactured. RRP is £13,700.

Artcom Tradebridge bought Scottrac in 2006, and have rebranded all their products under that name. Plans for the future include a new ATV which will be produced in Scotland from 2014.

*Artcom Tradebridge 01764 663000*



## Pressvess

Pressvess is a company that specialises in producing pressure vessels, storage tanks and silos. They then approached to manufacture a charcoal-making retort, and, having done so, didn't have to travel far to bring it to the APF; they are based in Kingswinford, just west of Birmingham.

Also on their stand was a familiar ring kiln, the sort in which we have all seen charcoal being produced. They described this as very 'hobbyist' by comparison, with low productivity. By contrast, their charcoal retort will convert 3 cubic metres of wood into 400kg of charcoal in a daily burn, which lasts 8 to 10 hours.

The retort can also be used to heat a building or work space. There are various ways of storing the heat, such as buffer vessels, or blowers can be installed for convector heating. One customer in Canada heats an acre of greenhouses, whilst using the kiln to manufacture biochar, a fertilizer which combines carbon capture with plant nourishment.

During the burning process, once the wood in the retort approaches 300°C it begins to emit gases, which in turn combust, making the fire self-fuelling. The chamber temperature is subsequently maintained at 550 to 650°C by means of valves on the top of the retort.

The charcoal is cool enough to remove from the kiln the following morning, ready to repeat the process.

*Pressvess 01384 400088  
www.pressvess.co.uk*

## Caledonian Forestry

Caledonian found the APF 2012 far better than they expected. Some of their equipment did not arrive on time, but from what you could see on their stand you would never have known. They covered both sides of the road at the end of the demonstration area entering the static area, and found it a good catchment for customers, which they turned into sales off their stand along with orders placed for later delivery.

They found the interest in their small equipment had dramatically increased, especially in the Vimek range of which the 608.2 4.5-ton forwarder was sold to Kelly Tree Care of Auchtermuchty. The 606TT 3-ton forwarder and the 404T4 harvester were also on display.

"My staff and I found it hard at times to attend to the number of customers on the stand," said Jim Watt, "but you can rest assured we will be following up all the leads we have collected."

*Caledonian Forestry Services 01764 663798*



## Wilson Machinery

Wilson's enjoyed a hectic three days in the sunshine at Ragley. Posch firewood machines were focal to the stand, along with Botex trailers and cranes.

Experienced contractors Tony Link, on the Valtra with roof mounted Botex, and Murray Graham, using the Posch S-350 processor, kept things active, producing over 30 tonnes of processed firewood.

Jim Wilson demonstrated the Posch Autosplit kindling machine and also promoted the new single-phase electric version.

Billy Wilson had a fully refurbished Valmet tractor which had all unnecessary electronics replaced by manual controls. Hence it had a manual gearbox with no powershift, manual diff-lock control and 4WD engagement, manual lift arm operation and manual PTO engagement. It all adds up to a simple, robust machine with less likelihood of expensive repairs in future. This conversion work will be carried out mainly on early Mezzo and Mega models.

Iain Wilson had a Lasco operating on a Samsung 13-tonne digger, which made short work of the large timber provided. Also in attendance at the show was Sona Björck of Rottne in Sweden, and there was an H11 8-wheel harvester on the stand.

Wilson Machinery 01556 612233



Billy Wilson with the simplified Valtra tractor.

## Ecoplug

Having felled a broadleaved tree, you probably don't want the stump to sprout new shoots, which will turn into several new trees in place of the old one.

The BTS Group was demonstrating Ecoplug Max capsules, which are hammered into a 13mm hole in the stump. Here they release glyphosate, which is apparently less toxic than caffeine, and harmful only to plants. It affects the entire root system of the treated stump, and can be used all year.

BTS Group 01449 720330



## Christie-Elite

Christie-Elite had a steady stream of visitors over the three days, with a great deal of interest from all who came into the stall.

One of the marked differences this year seemed to be a heightened awareness, among visitors, of key issues affecting the forest sector and the nursery trade in particular. General uncertainty over the future led to pertinent and interesting discussions relating to the impact of new diseases, changes in legislation, and the potential for climate change, to name but a few.

A much greater interest in plant origin and sourcing was evident, with clients asking specific questions on provenance selection, species-site compatibility, genetic improvement, disease prevention and the use of alternative species.

As a grower of trees specifically for forest and woodland use, Christie-Elite were gratified to see such involvement from visitors and clients. "In these uncertain times, many of these issues present real threat to the nursery trade, and understanding and engagement from the sector is vital if these issues are to be overcome," said managing director Matt Hommel.

"The change was subtle but marked from previous shows, and I, for one, found it very encouraging."

Christie-Elite 01309 672633



## Stihl

Stihl had their latest chainsaw, the lightweight MS 150 C-E, on their stand. Not only is it Stihl's lightest model, but at 2.8kg Stihl also believes it to be the lightest rear-handled machine available.

A professional saw, it is particularly well suited to pruning branches and tending young trees. It is powered by an economical, low emission 2-Mix engine, and has a 1.0kW power output. It is fitted with a manual fuel primer and the Stihl ErgoStart system.

The fuel and chain oil tank openings are large and easy to access without any tools, and chain tensioning is simple, with a single nut releasing the sprocket cover.

RRP is £385 plus VAT with a 10" guide bar. Alternatively, 12" bars can be fitted; the tips of the bars are particularly narrow, reducing the likelihood of kickback. Stihl Picco Micro saw chain is supplied as standard.

## Timber Transport Forum

With pole climbing, chainsaw carving and lots of big machines to compete with, promoting best practice guides at the APF Exhibition can be a lonely endeavour. So, this time, the Timber Transport Forum shared a stand with the very latest in timber transport technology. Hauliers and transport managers were drawn to a spanking new James Jones Volvo FH 'wagon and drag' timber lorry, providing a brief opportunity to promote the new edition of the Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice.

Attention soon reverted to the lorry however. James Jones & Sons were the pioneers of tyre pressure control in Scotland and this is the first lorry in the UK to have the Tireboss system fitted to all wheels, including the steer axle. Brian Spreen of the Canadian firm TPC International was on hand to explain the Tireboss system and its many benefits.

From the haulier's perspective the benefit is the improved traction made possible by lowering the tyre pressure on the drive wheels. If the trailer axles and, in this case the steer axle, are included in the system, increased comfort and reduced vibration are also apparent. Few drivers who get used to having tyre pressure control will voluntarily give it up! The transport manager will welcome the reduced tyre wear and lower running costs, and the longer vehicle and trailer life, which should compensate for the up-front costs. (This all-axle system, with steer axle equipped, contributed around £12,000 to the cost of the vehicle and trailer). However, it is the potential to reduce damage to fragile roads where the technology could provide the greatest savings. This requires fitting the tyre pressure control system to suitably configured lorries and trailers incorporating twin wheels or wider 'maxi' tyres where appropriate.

With over 100 timber lorries now fitted with tyre pressure control systems in Britain, experience is being gained and the technology is becoming established. The two main manufacturers, the Canadian Tireboss and New Zealand based Bigfoot CTI both have a network of agents and fitters across the country.

The next step is to make best use of the road friendly lorries, by figuring out where road strength is limiting and where spreading the load across a larger footprint will make the difference between a viable harvesting operation and a costly wrangle over road repairs. State of the art lorries are not a panacea for poorly maintained roads, but there will be times where it makes more sense to invest in appropriate vehicles rather than sink ever more money into the road.



Roland Stiven, Frank MacCulloch, Steven Raffan (driver) and Brian Spreen with the all-axle tyre pressure control timber wagon.

In situations where tyre pressure control can make a difference, better coordination and traffic management will be required. There is no point in one haulier investing in a road-friendly vehicle if the neighbouring harvesting manager is still contracting flatbed artics, running on super-single tyres. Traffic management can make a difference too, reducing speed, ensuring roads have time to recover between lorry passes and avoiding very wet conditions and periods of frost heave.

The Forum's good practice guide on Managing Timber Transport tries to set the scene and describe the responsibilities of the various players in the supply chain.

The James Jones lorry had at least one additional feature of note – a red bag full of chips held in place between the timber bolsters on the trailer. This prototype 'Big Bag' is the brainchild of Egger's John Paterson and would enable timber hauliers to deliver roundwood to the sawmill and then pick up a load of residues for delivery to customers *en route* back to the forest. With nearly ten million tonnes of softwood being transported each year, every extra loaded mile is a worthwhile efficiency.

## Marshall Engineering

There was an extremely wide array of machinery on Marshall's stand. A Westtech tree shear was cutting timber standing upright in a steel tube, and there was a lot of interest in the trailers. There was also the first Serra Bavaria SE135 sawmill to be sold, fitted with a new type of chassis – stronger and simpler, and a lot easier to clean down, since the sawdust slides off much more easily. With its board-removing system, the operator can almost remain in one place all the time, which keeps production up.

There were small trailers from Jussi, suitable for use with a compact tractor, and large ones from Binderberger, being used in conjunction with a 26-tonne trunk splitter. This can either be mounted in the trailer, literally in two minutes, or can be held in position by standing the trailer leg on it.

Binderberger trailers can be customised according to need, with the options of hook lifts, folding cranes and extending chassis ensuring they can be adapted to almost any purpose. "A lot of people think they must be very expensive because they look so smart," said Allan Marshall, "but they are pleasantly surprised by the price."

Also drawing a lot of attention was the Gierkink grapple saw. Unusually, this goes onto a standard rotator, where it can rotate continuously, without the need for any extra hoses. It may be mounted on a forwarder, with the result that it can dismantle trees, fell them and load in one operation. It takes just three minutes to remove a normal grapple and replace it with a Gierkink. Also, it is fitted with a special guide bar that enables it to cut bushes without the chain getting knocked off. The felling grapple has been on the market for two years, with over 80 sold throughout Europe, from Spain in the south to Sweden in the north.

Marshall Engineering 01892 770788



Top left: Using the beak to break up timber prior to loading onto a Binderberger trailer.

Top right: Michel Gierkink with his grapple saw. He is holding the special guide bar that enables bushes to be cut without knocking off the chain.

Left: The Binderberger SSP520 firewood processor now passes cut logs over a special cleaning area, removing any debris from the finished product.



**Komatsu Forest**



Komatsu had what was probably the most extensive stand at the show, with rows of harvesters and forwarders extending as far as the eye could see.

Pride of place, however, was given to an 820 forwarder with 13,000 hours on the clock that had been lovingly restored to what looked like mint condition for Elliot Henderson. It is a replica of his first machine, and was originally owned by the Forestry Commission.

The 820 can now look forward to a leisurely retirement. If it does any work at all, it will be Elliot who operates it, in a trip down memory lane.

The 820 stood next to another machine owned by Elliot Henderson – an 865 forwarder, and the contrast in size was striking.

Opposite the stand, the forwarder competition was taking place, again with an 865. Competitors had to complete a circuit against the clock which culminated with stacking blocks to spell the word 'Komatsu'. Rob Pickard, Mark Rooke and Kevin Greenham took the top three places.  
*Komatsu Forest 01228 792018*



*James Davenport of Silky Fox Handsaws holds the latest addition to the Silky range – a Tsurugi 300 pruning saw. (Tsurugi is Japanese for 'long sword'.)*

**Silky Fox**

Visitors to the Silky Fox Handsaw stand were amazed to see the new Hayate 7.7m telescopic saw towering above them. It is believed to be the longest-reach telescopic high pruning saw available. Its total weight is 4.55kg and it is 1.6 metres longer than the present Hayate saw.

The new Tsurugi range has a slim, sword-like, tapered blade designed to give a fast, clean pruning cut in hard-to-reach places such as tight forks. The blade is easily changed in 20 seconds, as no nuts or bolts are involved. The scabbard has an open bottom, which allows sawdust debris to fall to the ground. A unique, 6-roller design reduces scabbard wear and protects the teeth.

Other developments include Zubät 300 and 330 scabbards, which now have standard belt loops as well as the ability to use them as a leg scabbard (elastic Velcro straps are an extra). Also, a handmade adaptor is now available for the very popular Sintung 50 Lopper to fit Hayate as well as Hayauchi pole saws.

Silky saws are sold by stockists throughout the UK. Click on 'authorised stockists' on the website for details of a local stockist.

[www.silkyfox.co.uk](http://www.silkyfox.co.uk)

**Eagle Asset**



*Stephen Clark with wife Kirsteen.*

Stephen Clark of Eagle Asset Finance Limited welcomed the opportunity to make many new contacts as well as meeting up with many long standing customers at the show. He set up Eagle Asset Finance back in 1999 to provide a specialist forestry equipment finance service to the industry.

Stephen has a wide knowledge of the machinery used in the forestry industry, and has also become well known to suppliers over the past thirteen years.

As a member of the FCA, his company provides finance for new start businesses through to well established companies, enabling them to purchase harvesters, forwarders, Unimogs and all other forestry industry related assets.

*Eagle Asset 01506 400772*

**Tuffdip**

Michael Fenton and Malcolm Leng were inviting visitors to the show to compare the weight of two small posts which they kept in a beaker of water. One had been coated in Tuffdip, which forms a bitumen coating to keep it dry, and this was evident by the fact that the dipped post was much lighter.

Tuffdip is formulated from road-grade bitumen, and is applied as a cold dip. It is extremely strong and resistant to damage, even when the post is driven into stony ground. Bitumen is inert and does not degrade, and so, in theory, posts protected by Tuffdip will outlast any softwood that is allowed to become wet.

The company was at pains to stress that Tuffdip is not an alternative to chemical treatment. "Ours is a protection, not a preservation, system," said Malcolm Leng. "Tuffdip gives pressure treatments the best chance to do their job. We see this as a supplement that will achieve what chemicals never can – keep timber dry."

The dip process is quick, simple and inexpensive; a brief immersion to just above ground level, followed by time to dry. Depending on ambient temperature and humidity, drying takes an average of 24 hours prior to thumping in the post.

*Tuffdip 0333 405 4045*



## Ulite Bolsters

A face that we haven't seen for a year or two was at the APF – Steven Farrell with his Ulite bolster that he developed in conjunction with Newcastle University.

After many years, the product has now matured into its final specification. "No more changes," said Steven. "It can't be improved now."

He admits it has not been an easy ride to get to where he is today. "I developed the product in the marketplace," he says, "which I shouldn't have done;" but now he has a unique design of bolster that weighs just 100kg clamped to the wagon, with no welding, no wedges and no end wrap. Instead, the pin is kept in position with 'top hats'. Its strength and lightness come from the fact that it is made from special Swedish steel. Indeed, rival bolster manufacturers from Scandinavia came onto the stand and took many photographs of it. It is the only British made bolster.

Steven Farrell was very upbeat after the show. "It's the first time I've had my own stand at the APF," he said, "and the first time I've actually sold product from the stand."

The bolster and pins can be supplied in the colour of choice, and another small but unique feature is that the pins are fitted with LEDs.

*Ulite Bolsters 01830 520339*



*Steven Farrell with his unique Ulite bolster and pin.*

## Tubex

This year's APF exhibition saw Tubex, in their eye-catching teepee, show the combined shelter and mesh range for plant establishment. Visitors to the stand were able to see their 'next stage' in researching biodegradable shelters. Bhukan Parbhoo (pictured) was on site to explain biodegradable technology and exhibit some of the latest samples.

Out on trial this season is Tubex's Bio-Bio range of shelters, combining 70% oxo-degradable polypropylene and 30% biopolymer, facilitating control of the degradation process as well as being better for the environment. Samples are available on trial from Tubex.

*Tubex 01621 874201*



*Marcus Steigerwaldt with the Multitek 1620 SS firewood processor.*

## Multitek

Multitek have been manufacturing high production firewood processing equipment since 1973 and have been expanding at a global level for the past ten years. They now have equipment in Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, Australia, and North America.

The APF provided an opportunity to display their equipment to a British audience. They met up with many existing users and were able to demonstrate to many new potential customers. They brought a 1620 SS to the APF, which is their most popular model in Europe. It features a 40" carbide insert tooth circular saw and an innovative guillotine cutting system that operates from directly above the log for a clean, fast cut. This machine is portable and legal for transport on UK motorways.

Multitek sell their machinery direct from the factory in the USA and arrange transportation direct to the end-user by sea container. The equipment has direct drive hydraulic systems and is of very simple design, increasing the likelihood of years of trouble-free service.

The company has a parts depot in the UK, which keeps a stock of common parts such as saw teeth, hydraulic filters, and various other components.

*Multitek 001 715 490 1473*

## Logset

At APF, Logset presented their new GT (Generation Two) harvester, the 8H GT. It was on the stand alongside an 8H Classic harvester, 6F Classic forwarder, and Logset's latest innovation, the THXtender with a TH75X head.

The 8H GT drew a lot of interest from visitors with its rotating and levelling cabin, which makes it very suitable for steep slopes and uneven terrain. It appears that many customers will select the rotating cabin option for UK conditions.

The 8H Classic harvester was a good reference point to compare what has actually been changed in the new GT series. The 6F Classic forwarder will remain available for a limited time. Many customers were familiar with the benefits of this reliable, all-round machine.

The THXtender with Titan Head TH75X is a multi-use harvesting tool that can be fitted on any 20-22 ton excavator. Logset had this combination at the FinnMETKO exhibition two weeks earlier in Finland, where it also brought in many inquiries concerning possible attachment to various types of excavator.

At the end of the show, the Logset ladies drew a winner for the iPad prize draw. It went to Rob Fox. Congratulations to the winner!

*RJ Fukes 01550 721641*



*Juhani Mäkynen, Logset sales and marketing director, with the Logset ladies.*