



Scottish Wild Harvests Association

first annual report, Apr09-Oct10

SWHA came into existence in April 2009 as an independent association started by a handful of wild harvests businesses and activists. These founder members had been brought together by a series of meetings organised by Reforesting Scotland over the preceding months and years.

The SWHA committee met 5 times between that inaugural meeting and the first AGM in October 2010, with members travelling from Dumfries & Galloway, Wester Ross, Perthshire, Angus and Aberdeen, and meeting in Perthshire, Angus and Edinburgh. Contact with members was maintained largely at a distance, via telephone, email and a members' Google group. We made external links with a number of organisations and agencies, including Reforesting Scotland, the Falkland Centre for Stewardship, the Perthshire Wild Connections festival, Scottish Working Woods label, and VisitScotland.

By the end of the year membership stood at 29 individuals and businesses, with 8 committee members elected at the AGM.

Promoting sustainable wild harvests, SWHA & wild harvests businesses

SWHA acts as a contact point for enquiries from a range of people, both at public events and through our website and email address. During 2009-10 we provided recommendations and contact details of wild harvests businesses – suppliers of products, workshops and wild food walks – to several event organisers around Scotland; we provided expert advice to a private landowner and a community group who wanted to include forageable resources in their woodland planting schemes; we passed on information and wild harvests business contacts to freelance journalists and VisitScotland to aid the promotion of responsible foraging. SWHA provided a speaker for the Food From the Forest discussion panel at the 2010 Big Tent festival, and articles for the Autumn/Winter 2010 *Reforesting Scotland* journal and the October 2009 *National NTFP Newsletter* of Canada. SWHA information was on display at the Reforesting Scotland Gathering, a Fruitful Gathering in Glasgow, Scotia Seeds' field day, and other public events during the year.



We've developed our own display materials, which by October 2010 comprised a striking wooden banner, a customised stall cloth, and a range of printed materials, all decorated with a specially commissioned SWHA logo.

We also had a number of public appearances in our own right. SWHA was launched at the 2009 Big Tent Festival, with a members' stall and buckets full of foraged cherries, and members organised another very popular shared tent at the 2010 Big Tent festival. We had a joint trading presence at the new Perthshire Wild Gathering event in Dunkeld in October 2010, with free stall space for SWHA members, and held our first AGM in Bankfoot the following day.



Fundraising & future plans

Behind the scenes SWHA committee members found time to start looking into fundraising and ideas for future SWHA activities, approaching a number of people within governmental and other organisations for support. We have been very grateful to receive a grant of £1000 from Dynamic Woods (Scottish Charity Number SC030663) to help SWHA get established.

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