



WOULD YOU LIKE A ‘LEARNING WOOD’ NEAR YOU?



Scottish Native Woods are currently looking to establish a whole network of “Learning Woods” in towns and villages right across Scotland, giving local people, school children and community groups places in which they can learn to identify all our native tree species in one location.

They are anticipating that the most suitable sites will be on local authority, Forestry Commission or some sort of community land, **or on local golf courses**. Golf courses are potentially excellent sites, in that the new trees will provide landscaping and additional points of interest to golfers, as well as introducing local children to their local course, some of whom may then choose to take up the sport.

During 2010, Scottish Native Woods laid out an educational woodland area on **Aberfeldy Golf Course** for the use of Breadalbane Academy and other groups to learn their tree species, and how they relate to one another. The trees are maintained by Aberfeldy Golf Course and are growing well. Many of them were planted by local school children, as part of the BBC Tree O’Clock event in the autumn of 2009. We anticipate this woodland area becoming a very useful, long term educational resource, accessed by whatever local groups or schools are interested in trees, or just for individuals to learn their tree species in their own time.

Can your golf club get involved?

For clubs that sign up to the scheme, about 600 new woodland trees will be planted in a single community event, which **Scottish Native Woods will fund, organise and supervise**. Club volunteers should be involved with labour and wherever possible, local schools will be involved at each location too.

Scottish Native Woodlands will require a local community group to keep an interest in the site and



maintain it going in to the future. This need not be arduous. In fact, maintaining an area of trees can be much simpler and easier than maintaining an area of cut grass, reducing the overall maintenance costs of some existing amenity areas for those already managing them.

Scottish Native Woods will also provide interpretation boards at each site, plus identification markers at each site, funded externally from other charitable trusts. This will include the discreet identification of each species block within each of the sites.

If you are interested in this idea, even if you have not yet identified a suitable area of land in your course, they would be very pleased to hear from you. In the first instance, please contact dianne.laing@scottishnativewoods.org.uk for more information.