

NATIONAL COPPICE WEEK

National
Coppice
Federation



Supporting the Coppice Industry

We need to hear from you, our Members, ASAP!

Hello everyone,

A few years ago, Louise Bacon in Cambridgeshire came up with the idea of a National Coppice Week. Something to promote coppicing in the UK, raise the profile of the fabulous wildlife associated with coppiced woods (Louise is a Wildlife Trust volunteer!) and get people thinking about buying products from their local coppiced woodlands.

Several individuals and groups have embraced the idea over the last few years but NCFed would like to find out what all you members think of trying to make it a national event. The directors, Marketing Committee, and reps have spent some time discussing the idea and we'd now like to see what you think. We thought we'd ask for pledges of events from members and see if there's enough interest to make it a runner. We'll test the water in 2019 and if it's been successful, really go for it in 2020.

So, what is National Coppice Week?

It's a week of events throughout the UK focusing on coppicing, coppice products and the many benefits of the management of British woodlands by coppicing. Actually we are proposing 9 days – including two weekends, 12-20 October, launching at the NCFed weekend Gathering and AGM in Herefordshire on 12 October.

What does it aim to achieve?

To raise the profile of:

1. Coppicing – what it is and why it's done
2. Products of the UK's coppiced woodland
3. The benefits of buying local and the problems often associated with imported products, especially charcoal
4. Habitat and biodiversity benefits associated with coppice management
5. Coppicing's heritage

Who is it aimed at?

- The general public as existing and potential customers
- Policy and decision makers in local and national government

Who might run events?

- Active coppice workers, especially members of NCFed affiliated groups
- Other partner organisations:
 - The Wildlife Trusts
 - Volunteer coppice groups
 - Other environmental trusts/organisations – Woodland Trust, National Trust, Community Forests, etc.
 - Forestry Commission
 - Local government officers

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What's likely to be happening?

That's where you come in – it's up to you. Anything to get people thinking about any or all aspects of coppicing. Here are the kinds of things we've been thinking about...

- Woodland open days
- Guided walks
- Talks
- Experience/have a go sessions/demonstrations
- Sales of produce/markets
- Concerts, cakes, ceilidhs... (not sure we actually talked about those last ones but they could all work)

If you fancy being part of it

Please let us have a date, a location and a few details of your thing, by Friday 17th May. Yes, sorry it is short notice but we are very short of time! Clearly, to make it 'national' we will need more than a couple of events to put on a list, so the Media and Marketing Sub-Committee will look at all the proposed events and decide if there's enough to make a worthwhile pilot. If it's on, we will be in touch later in May to get things moving.

So, think on, talk to your friends and colleagues, come up with something new, adapt something old, or just submit something you'll be doing anyway. It doesn't have to be fancy. As long as it will interest people in your area and spread the coppicey joy, send a date or two back.

We need to know the following:

1. Name of event
2. Location – just a place or wood name, no need for anything more yet
3. Date
4. What's going to happen? (keep it brief at this stage)
5. How many people could it accommodate – roughly?

None of this will be published yet, so don't worry if your plans aren't complete, we are just testing interest now. But please only tell us about an event if you think it will really happen.

Please reply with an email to nationalcoppiceweek@ncfed.org.uk with the above information.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks.

Guy Lambourne and Tim Roskell
MAMSC
(NCFed Media and Marketing Sub-Committee)