

Pro Silva Europe Annual convention 2010

**17 – 19 June 2010
Arnhem, The Netherlands**



Pro Silva The Netherlands

Colophon

Text: Jaap Kuper, Harrie Weersink, Henk Bonekamp, Jeroen Glissenaar, Reijer Knol, Susan Bonekamp, Willem Lammertink & Martijn Boosten

Translation/English corrections: Katalijn MacAfee

Lay-out and editing: Martijn Boosten

Illustration front page: Klingen Bomen

Pro Silva The Netherlands
Wageningen, 2010

Program

Wednesday June 16th.

- 17.00 – 18.00 h Registration of participants at Hotel Haarhuis
- 18.30 – 19.30 h Welcome drink in the hotel bar
- 19.30 h Dinner at the hotel

Thursday June 17th

- 7.00 – 8.00 h Breakfast
Registration of participants at Hotel Haarhuis
- 8.15 – 8.45 h Welcome by Susan Bonekamp (chairman Pro Silva The Netherlands) & Prof. Jean-Philippe Schütz (chairman Pro Silva Europe)
- 8.45 h Departure to Kroondomein het Loo (Royal Estate)
- 10.00 – 12.30 h Excursion at the ‘Kroondomein het Loo’ (Royal Estate) in Apeldoorn
On the Royal Estate both timber production and biodiversity management play an important role. On the estate there are numerous examples of Pro Silva management. The excursion will be lead by Jaap Kuper, manager of the estate and former president of Pro Silva Europe
- 12.30 – 13.30 h Lunch
- 13.30 – 14.00 h Presentation on the Federation of Forest Support Groups
The Federation of Forest Support Groups (Bosgroepen) are regional associations for and from private forest owners and municipalities. The associations provide consultation, management and combined timber sales. Bart Nyssen will give a presentation on Federation of Forest Support Groups. He will also give an introduction about Dutch forest and nature policy and the financing structure of forestry in the Netherlands.
- 14.00 h Departure to Community forest of Apeldoorn
- 14.30 – 17.00 h Excursion at the Community forest of Apeldoorn
In the community forest of the municipality of Apeldoorn, besides timber production and biodiversity, recreation is one of the key functions of the forest. The excursion will be lead by the forest manager Henk Bonekamp. He has 30 years of experience with Pro Silva management. During the excursion he will show examples of the transition that started 30 years ago from clear cut management to Pro Silva management.
- 17.15 h Departure to Hotel Haarhuis in Arnhem
- 18.30 h Arrival in Arnhem
- 19.30 h Dinner in Tapas-restaurant La Puerta in Arnhem

Friday June 18th

- 7.00 – 8.00 h Breakfast
- 8.15 – 8.30 h Welcome by Hank Bartelink, chairman of the Royal Dutch Forestry Society (KNBV), in the Meeting Room of Hotel Haarhuis
- 8.30 – 10.45 h Delegates meeting Pro Silva Europe in the Meeting Room of Hotel Haarhuis
- 10.45 h Departure to Park Sonsbeek in Arnhem
- 11.30 – 12.00 h Introduction on Park Sonsbeek and Urban Forestry by Jeroen Glissenaar, forest manager of the City of Arnhem
- 12.00 – 13.00 h Lunch
- 12.30 – 13.00 h Presentation on Integrated Forest Management by Simon Klingen
- 13.00 – 15.00 h Excursion in Park Sonsbeek
The city of Arnhem is famous for its parks and forests In 2009 Arnhem won the price for greenest city in Europe . One of the parks, Park Sonsbeek connects the city centre of Arnhem with the large nature area the Veluwe. Park Sonsbeek is an old park that combines timber production, nature values and intense recreational use. The rich soil provides beautiful forest and timber. The excursion will be lead by Jeroen Glissenaar, forest manager and an expert on urban forestry.
- 15.00 h Free time in the city of Arnhem

Saturday June 19th

- 7.00 – 7.45 h Breakfast
- 7.45 h Departure to Flevoland
- 9.30 – 10.15 h Introduction on Staatsbosbeheer and broadleaved forests in Flevoland by Reijer Knol
- 10.15 – 13.15 h Excursion to the Bremerbergbos, a broadleaved mixed forests in Flevoland
During this excursion we will visit a fast growing, broadleaved forest on reclaimed land (former sea) and see examples of Pro Silva management by Staatsbosbeheer (State forest service). The excursion will be lead by Reijer Knol, former district manager of Staatsbosbeheer. Reijer Knol will tell us about the development of the Dutch polder and the forests in particular.
- 14.00 – 14.30 h Picnic lunch
- 14.30 – 17.00 h Excursion to the Oostvaardersplassen
The Oostvaardersplassen is an internationally famous Wetland, because of the big amounts of birds and herbivores. Natural development, especially of the population of herbivores, characterizes this area. The excursion will be lead by Hans Breeveld of Staatsbosbeheer.
- 17.15 h Departure to Arnhem

19.00 – 22.30 h Barbeque in Arnhem

22.30 h Departure to Hotel Haarhuis in Arnhem

23.00 h Arrival at Hotel Haarhuis

Sunday June 20th

7.00 – 8.45 h Breakfast

9.00 h Departure to Neerijnen

10.15 – 13.00 h Post conference excursion to the broadleaved forest of Neerijnen Estate
During the excursion we will visit both old and young stands of oak, ash, beech, cherry and sycamore on very rich clay-soil. The forest is part of an estate that offers beautiful views on the forest , the river Waal and on traditional willow coppice stands. The excursion will be lead by Willem Lammertink, region manager of Het Geldersch Landschap (one of the 12 provincial trusts)

13.00 h Departure to Arnhem (with an optional stop at a train station with connections to Schiphol and Eindhoven airport)

14.15 h Arrival at Hotel Haarhuis in Arnhem

Map with excursion locations



Background information

Kroondomein Het Loo

Excursion June 17th

History

In 1684, ruler Willem III bought the old castle 'Het Loo' with approximately 200 ha of surrounding parkland and approximately 3000 ha 'Hoog Soerense' Forest. Adjacent to the small old castle palace 'Het Loo' was built in 1685. Mid-19th, century the park surrounding the palace was expanded to 650 ha.

At the beginning of the 20th century Queen Wilhelmina bought 6700 hectares of forest and heath, located between Uddel and Gortel. This area was donated to the state in 1959 in order to prevent the risk of division due to inheritance. Since then the area has become Crown Estate. The usufruct of this land remains with the Head of State.

In 1971 management and use of the Palace Park and the 'Hoog Soerense' Forest was transferred to the state. Since then, these grounds have been managed by the Ministry of Finance. They are now National Domain. The daily management of this National Domain is put out to contract to the bailiff of the Crown Estate.

Management

Presently Kroondomein Het Loo consists of 8400 hectares of forest, 1700 hectares of open semi-natural areas and 250 hectares of agricultural land. The soils are predominantly dry and poor of minerals. The forest consists of approximately 50% Scots pine, 15% oak, 15% beech and 20% Douglas fir and larch.

The objective of the forest management is to permanently do optimal justice to the functions of wood production (= earning money from timber), nature (Netherlands nature) and scenery (aesthetics). The sustainability in timber harvest is guaranteed by adjusting the harvest to volume increment and natural losses. The sustainability in biodiversity is guaranteed by establishing non-harvesting zones and zones that contain certain kinds of tree species (indigenous/exotic). The sustainability is monitored using a measuring network at fixed points.

In the framework of the management objective, a distinction is made between three categories of forest:

- forest with nature, based on natural processes, as its main function (indigenous trees only, no human interference)
- forest with a combined nature and production function (indigenous trees only, harvest through selective felling, natural forest systems with moderate human use)
- forest focussing on wood production (both indigenous and exotic trees, harvest through selective felling, forest systems with moderate human use)

The annual harvest amounts to approximately 25,000 m³ of timber. Kroondomein Het Loo is certified by FSC.

The open areas used to be heather fields. Some of these areas still have heather vegetation. The objective is to maintain the open character and specific kinds of plant-species.

The open areas contain fens, in the forest one finds loam pits filled with water. Moreover, there are three small lakes.

Fauna

Kroondomein Het Loo is home to roe deer, red deer and wild boar, approximately 300 to 400 of each species. The game population is adjusted to the holding capacity of the area. In addition there are fox, badger and pine marten. Song birds and birds of prey constitute a major part of the rich bird population.

Federation of Forest Support Groups

Presentation June 17th

The Federation of Forest Support Groups in the Netherlands has been established by the regional Forest Support Groups in 1991 to act as an umbrella organisation for these regional forest owners associations. Regional Forest Support Groups (FSG) were set up between 1975 and 1995 and all are members of the Federation.

The Forest Support Groups are the regional Forest Owners Associations in the Netherlands. They act as co-operatives of and for forest owners. Private landowners, nature conservation organisations, local governments and the State Forestry Service are all member of the forest co-operatives. The work of the Forest Support Groups, on behalf of their members, consists of:

1. Preparation and implementation of management plans and field inventories,
2. Application for government subsidies,
3. Sale of timber (or simply timber sale)
4. Management of FSC Group Certification,
5. Information and extension to members,
6. Lobbying and co-operation with other organisations.

With more than 1100 members and over 420.000 ha of forest and conservation area (60% of total forest and nature area of the country), the Federation of Forest Support Groups is a major player in the Dutch forestry and nature management sector. The Forest Support Groups are well embedded at the local level and in the field which makes it through the Federation, an important partner for the government where policy preparation and implementation are concerned.

Berg en Bos, community forest of Apeldoorn

Excursion June 17th

Until the end of the 19th century, the area of Berg en Bos, just like the rest of the Veluwe, existed of large heath lands with some coppice cultures. The heath lands were mainly used for grazing sheep and the heath itself was used for deep litter housing system.

With the introduction of fertilizers and the increased demand for wood for the mines, the heath lands were turned into forest. The first Scots pine were planted in Berg en Bos in 1882. The last owner of Berg en Bos was Belgian timber trader Mr. J.D. Wils. It was his management that mainly determined the character of the area. Lanes were underplanted with rhododendron and in 1912 the last remnants of heather were planted with Scots pine. In 1912 the first douglas fir was planted. In 1917 the community of Apeldoorn became the owner of Berg en Bos.

During the Second World War, the Scots pine was of reasonable diameter, and under pressure of the Germans many hectares were cut for industry timber. The area was replanted with douglas fir and larch. Currently, these are exceptionally productive forests with a yearly increment of 12 to 15 m³ per hectare per year.

In later years, more stands of Scots pine were harvested and mainly replanted with high productive species like douglas fir, larch, *Abies grandis* and some oak. In the old Scots pine stands, natural regeneration of oak, Scots pine and beech appeared. With this development came the displeasure of the traditional clear cutting system. With the management plan of 1986, the management formally switched to 'integrated forest management' (similar to Pro Silva) after experimenting for some years with thinning and group selection in the stands that were supposed to be clear-cut.

Sonsbeek Park

Excursion June 18th

Characteristics:

City park since: 1889

Area: 67 ha

Temperate deciduous forest: 95%

Coniferous woodland: 5%

Agricultural destination: 17%

The forest of Sonsbeek Park is mostly dominated by beech.

Sonsbeek is a famous park in the city of Arnhem. It is the country's first monumental city park. Sonsbeek Park, together with the other green areas of the city of Arnhem, has won many national and international awards such as the award for the greenest city of Europe in 2008 and the award for best public space this year (2010).

History

Guillaume baron of Heeckeren bought the estate Sonsbeek in 1821. He transformed the estate according to the latest fashion: the English landscape style. The large differences in elevation were an ideal basis for the romanticism of this style. On a relatively small area, it was a simulation of a complete landscape of forests and shrubs, land, water, vista's, a country house, home gardening, a deer camp and a Belvedere.

When maintenance of the estate became too expensive, he decided to sell a part of the estate where since then houses have been built.

Park Sonsbeek as we know it now is only a small part of the original estate. In 1899 the Municipality of Arnhem bought Sonsbeek.

The park

An important item of the park is the Sint Jansbeek. Several water-mills worked along this creek for centuries. The industrial revolution was inevitable for these companies. Only the White Mill next to the visitors centre Sonsbeek still exists.

Park Sonsbeek is mainly used as a recreational area, but also as an open-air podium for the city. The park provides a perfect scenery for theatre and art- exhibitions.

For the past 15 years, Arnhem has been cooperating actively with local people and interest groups. The impulse for this cooperation was a considerable difference of opinion concerning the management of Sonsbeek Park. Some sections are now managed intensively, and where possible, natural development is given more free rein. The municipality has noticed that commitment is created when local people are asked to participate. This commitment is important in obtaining support for green policy.

The Bremerbergbos, a broadleaved mixed forest in Flevoland

Excursion June 19th

Introduction

This forest is situated in the south of Eastern Flevoland and covers an area of 1170 hectare. It is part of the Spijk-Bremerbergbos. The forest is owned and managed by Staatsbosbeheer. This forest area is embedded in a dense recreational area. Almost 1 million people visit this area every year.

History

In 1932, the IJsselmeer Dam was completed, and the Zuiderzee ceased to exist.

The Northeast Polder was the first polder to be reclaimed from this new lake in 1940: thousands of workers were deployed to make it suitable for agriculture.

After the creation of the Northeast Polder, work on the Eastern Flevoland Polder began. While the Northeast Polder was reserved chiefly for agriculture, Eastern Flevoland was to offer living space for the people of the very densely populated Randstad area, which includes the cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht. The provinces of North and South Holland could no longer provide enough residential and recreational areas for its many inhabitants. In Eastern Flevoland, 25% of the land was earmarked for purposes other than agriculture. After the speedy development of the Eastern Flevoland Polder (1957), the Southern Flevoland Polder followed soon after in 1967. In this polder, as much as 50% of the land was set aside for non-agricultural activities.

After a few years of soil development by reeds and after that agriculture, the Bremerbergbos was planted in the period of 1962 tot 1966. Half of the area was planted with poplar and willow, the other half with broadleaved species (hardwoods) like oak, beech, maple and ash, mostly in monocultures.

Development of the forest

The forest was planted in only a few years time. To obtain an uneven age structure, the following management and planting regime was chosen. Poplar was planted in various clones. Some of the stands with these clones died soon and were replanted with poplar or hardwoods

At age 25, the poplar stands were underplanted with several broadleaved species and shrubs, and poplar was gradually removed.

This management allowed for time intervals of 10 to 20 years to develop. At the moment, a broad variety of natural regeneration appears which generates even more structure.

Management

Regeneration and planting

All poplar stands are underplanted with hardwoods and shrubs. Of every ha 25 to 50 % was netto underplanted. The other 75 to 50 % is expected to regenerate by natural regeneration.

15 % of the poplar stands was clear-cut and replanted with poplar. At least 10 poplars per hectare were left to die naturally. At the moment all poplar stands consist of two layers, an overstorey and an understorey.

In the newly planted poplar stands, groups of hardwoods were planted as well (mixed in, not underplanted). These hardwoods will provide natural regeneration under the poplar in the future.

Thinning and final harvest

The group selection method is used to thin hardwoods, leaving between 2-4 gaps per hectare with a maximum area of 200m² per gap. This method will allow for more vertical structure in the forest.

The edges of the forest are cut back every few years to provide habitat for certain species. Of all future-trees 30 % are designated for non-timber purposes like recreation and nature value. These trees will be released.

Oostvaardersplassen

Excursion June 19th

The Oostvaardersplassen are a unique ecological reserve owned by Staatsbosbeheer. In 1968, the new polder land was destined to become an industrial estate. Instead, a unique marshland of international grandeur developed on its own. Nature is allowed to have its own way, unobstructed.

The Oostvaardersplassen make a splendid picture, which is almost un-Dutch. The reed beds, lakes and grasslands extend as far as the eye can see. The ecological reserve covers an area of 6,000 hectares and is divided in a wet and a dry section. The wet marshy section with its shallow lakes is a true birds' paradise. The dry section consists of vast grasslands and lush herbage. This is the domain of the geese and other grazers: konik horses, heck cattle and red deer.

In winter, the Oostvaardersplassen are impressively barren and calm, but in spring lots of animals are milling around in the area. It is in that season that tens of thousands of greylags arrive here. In September the rutting season of red deer commences. For weeks on end you can hear the troating sounds of the males echoing across the plains.

Management

The basic principle of managing the Oostvaardersplassen is a natural development based on ecological processes. The effects of giving nature free rein can at least be called surprising. Birds and animals of which people thought could not or no longer exist in the Netherlands suddenly pop up (again).

The great white egret, which has been extinct since the Middle Ages, is back again. Ospreys, which have not been breeding in the Netherlands since times immemorial, are raising their young here.

Beavers that escaped from Lelystad Nature Park several years ago, spontaneously settled here.

This type of management also means that dead animals are left where they are. The carrions attract real carrion birds like ravens, foxes, sea eagles and vultures. Nowhere else is the cycle of life as visible as in this case. This unique ecosystem enables us to experience the primitive power of nature in a penetrating way and allows us to learn from it.

Staatsbosbeheer

With approximately 250,000 ha around the country, Staatsbosbeheer – commissioned by the Dutch government – manages a considerable share of the nature reserves in the Netherlands. Staatsbosbeheer is an independent administrative body whose principal is the ministry of Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit (LNV) [Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality].

Mission:

Staatsbosbeheer works to create and maintain the quality of a viable and sustainable natural environment for man, plant and animal.

Vision and primary tasks:

One of the main goals of is to create a viable and sustainable environment for man, plant and animal.

To encourage an ongoing relationship between people and nature, Staatsbosbeheer creates and maintains environments in which nature fulfils several functions. Staatsbosbeheer ensures that people are part of these environments.

Goals:

- To maintain, restore and develop natural and man-made landscapes in the areas Staatsbosbeheer manages.
- To promote ecologically orientated recreation in as many of these areas as possible.
- To contribute to the production of eco-friendly and renewable resources such as timber.

Neerijnen estate

Excursion June 20th

Neerijnen is an estate of 300 hectares and is owned by The Gelderland Trust (Het Geldersch Landschap). It is situated in the Dutch river delta. The estate in its current shape was established in the beginning of the 20th century. There is a castle, Waardenburg (built ca 1300), and a manor, Neerijnen (built ca 1600). The estate was designed by Dutch landscape architect Springer, and varies in open spaces (meadows) and closed spaces (forest). In between there are orchards, meadows and pastures. The major part of the estate lies in the northern floodplain of the river Waal.

The main tree species in the park are ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and oak (*Quercus robur*) on river clay. The trees are 85 to 110 years old. These stands were last thinned in 1990. This was done to help the oak compete with the beech. In 1993/94 an area of 2.2 hectares was planted with a mixture of 50% ash, 20% oak, 10% hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and 20% wild cherry (*Prunus avium*).

The floodplain is a typical Dutch wetland characterized by a combination of relatively dry and wet meadows and pastures, an old river branch, osier plantations of willow, a sand extraction hole and spontaneously developed willow stands, all divided by hawthorn hedges. In winter the floodplain is important for wintering white-fronted geese, bean geese, gray-lag geese and widgeons. Breeding birds are great crested grebe, shoveller duck, water rail and sand martin.

Participants

Name	First name	Country
Amann	Andreas	Austria
Bako	Csaba	Hungary
Balch	Sidney	USA
Balch	Lila	USA
Bonekamp	Susan	The Netherlands
Boosten	Martijn	The Netherlands
Borkent	Ido	The Netherlands
Bruggemans	Meindert	The Netherlands
Burrus	Roland	France
Burrus	Christina	France
Carvalho	Joao	Portugal
de Haas	Jeroen	The Netherlands
de Potter	Benjamin	Belgium
De Turckheim	Brice	France
Diaci	Jurij	Slovenia
Fitzgerald	Cathy	Ireland
Frank	Georg	Austria
Galhidy	Laszlo	Hungary
Garitacelaya	Jesus	Spain
Geudens	Guy	Belgium
Givors	Alain	France
Goltz von der	Hans	Germany
Grecs	Zoran	Slovenia
Horvath	Ivan	Hungary
Jansen	Patrick	The Netherlands
Karsemeijer	Mark	The Netherlands
Knol	Reijer	The Netherlands
Lammerink	Willem	The Netherlands
Lesnik	Anton	Slovenia
Letocart	Michel	Belgium
Letter	Hans-Albert	Germany
Marsman	Maarten	The Netherlands
Metaj	Mehmet	Albania
Morgan	Philippe	Wales, UK
Morgan	Catriona	Wales, UK
O'Hare	Donal	Ireland
Pleines	Willem	Switzerland
Pleines	Cécile	Switzerland
Ramalho	Carlos	Portugal
Schütz	Jean-Philippe	Switzerland
Schulting	Renske	The Netherlands
Sary	Pavel	Czech Republic

Stroppa	Massimo	Italy
Swart	Boudewijn	The Netherlands
van de Wiel	Bas	The Netherlands
van Drie	Co	The Netherlands
Varga	Bela	Hungary
Vrska	Tomas	Czech Republic
Wijdeven	Sander	The Netherlands
Wolf	Robbert	The Netherlands

Organisation of the convention

Susan Bonekamp
Martijn Boosten
Jeroen de Haas
Reijer Knol
Willem Lammertink
Renske Schulting
Bas van de Wiel

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The Royal Dutch Forestry Society (KNBV)



Staatsbosbeheer



Gemeente Apeldoorn (Municipality of Apeldoorn)



Kroondomein Het Loo



Staro Natuur en Buitengebied



Unie van Bosgroepen



Borgman Beheer Advies



Geldersch Landschap



Bosschap

Rondhout Boxmeer B.V.



Stichting Probos



Stichting Het Geldersch Landschap



Unie van **Bosgroepen**