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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE

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Winner of The Dr. Cyril Hart Memorial Award Announced

The Scottish Forestry Trust is delighted to announce that the winner of The Dr Cyril Hart Memorial Award is Matti Salmela, a postgraduate student who was based at the University of Edinburgh. His paper, "Understanding the evolution of native pinewoods in Scotland will benefit their future management and conservation" was published in Forestry, Volume 83, Number 5. The paper was co-authored by Matti Salmela, Stephen Cavers, Witold Wachowiak, Joan Cottrell, Glenn Iason and Richard Ennos.

Speaking from his home in Finland before continuing his studies at the University of Wyoming in 2012, Matti said, "I thank the Trust for this award and I am very pleased that we have been successful in demonstrating what forestry can gain from studies on the evolution of native woodlands and in documenting our findings to the wider forestry community in Scotland. These studies have just scratched the surface and I hope that further research will reveal more details about the biology of native Scots pine and other tree species."

Presenting the award, Robert Scott, the Chairman of The Scottish Forestry Trust said, "It is very important to the Trust to see that research findings are translated into practical findings that can in turn be acted upon by the wider forest industry. Matti's paper was an excellent example of this and we commend his efforts and that of the paper's co-authors."

Collecting the award on behalf of Matti, Richard Ennos of Edinburgh University's Institute of Evolutionary Biology said "On behalf of all of Matti's postgraduate advisers I am delighted that his efforts to communicate his research findings to a broad audience within the forestry sector been recognized by the Dr Cyril Hart Memorial Award. Matti's paper, and the further research that it has inspired, have provided us with valuable practical guidance for the management of Scotland's most iconic tree species."

Ends

Notes for Editors:

All name spellings correct

The Dr. Cyril Hart Memorial Award is presented to students who have received funding support from the Scottish Forestry Trust and who as a result of their research have produced publicly available, quality papers through a scientific journal; article or practice note which clearly demonstrates the translation of scientific research into practical information suitable for wider forestry sector consumption. The award may also be given to papers which contribute to the enhancement of silvicultural practice.

The Scottish Forestry Trust is the leading UK Charitable Trust providing funds for research, education and training in support of British Forestry. Established in 1983 by a gifting of share capital, the Trust is a registered charity and has a remit to provide private sector funds to support research and education throughout the British forestry industry. Since 1983, the Trust has provided in excess of £1.8m to over 120 projects ranging from supporting post graduate education through to contributing towards industry applied research and assisting policy formulation.

Dr. Cyril Hart obtained his forestry and land training under the late Major C. P. Ackers of the Huntley Manor Estate, acting as land agent, and later as Managing Director of the associated companies of Forest Products Ltd., and Woodland Improvement Ltd., at Huntley. In addition, he managed forestry estates in England, Scotland and Wales, and lectured in forestry and estate economy at the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester and wrote many books on forestry in general and the Forest of Dean in particular. Dr. Hart was elected a Verderer of the Royal Forest of Dean in 1952, and for most subsequent years was H.M. Senior Verderer until his death in 2009. He acted for many years as the Chairman of H.M. Inclosure Commissioners of Dean Forest, and served as a member of the B.B.C. Regional Advisory Council, and the South West Regional Hospital Committee. Dr. Hart was awarded the O.B.E. In 1982.

The Award was commissioned from and created by Angus Clyne of Murthly, Perthshire <http://www.angusclyne.co.uk/profile.html>.

Further information, and a photograph of the award presentation is available from SFT Director, Bob Stubbs at director@scottishforestrytrust.org.uk