

Members' News

Spring 2003

www.countrysidemanagement.org.uk

**COUNTRYSIDE
MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION**



Membership renewal now due

Your membership of CMA is now due for renewal. CMA relies heavily on your membership fee to continue providing the current range of services including:

- Ranger Magazine - free to all members of the CMA
- Members' News
- Free or low-cost site visits and training events
- Annual conference
- Website www.countrysidemanagement.org.uk and the CMA e-group
- Links to other similar associations at home and abroad
- A voice for the countryside and urban greenspace profession that is increasingly being listened to by government agencies and other professional associations

Please complete the Renewal Form which is included in this mailing. Don't forget that you will receive a 20% discount if your employer or educational establishment is a Corporate Member.

Payment by Standing Order

please read this whether or not you use this method of payment

To make paying your subscription easier for you and CMA, why not consider paying by Standing Order? A Standing Order Mandate has been included for your convenience. If you already pay by Standing Order, we would be grateful if you could check that the level of payment specified is correct. Common errors include Associate Members (whose employers are not Corporate Members) retaining a Standing Order for £20.00 rather than the correct figure of £25.00.

Do you want to become an Accredited Member?

CMA values all of its members. However, many of our Associate Members seek greater recognition of their competence, qualifications and experience. This can be achieved by applying to become an Accredited Member. As soon as you apply you will be sent an Accredited Member Handbook and you will be accorded the status "Associate (Accredited Member Applicant)". You will also be allocated a Mentor to guide you through the accreditation process. Associate Members choose to apply to become Accredited Members for a number of reasons including the personal satisfaction of having their competence, qualifications and experience recognised, greater recognition from their employer and fellow professionals and a desire for the profession at large to receive greater recognition. If you would like more information about becoming an Accredited Member, please contact Writtle College in the first instance. The application process costs £20.00 which covers the cost of your Handbook and Mentor support. If you have already decided to apply, please complete the form below. Please note that once you are accepted as an Accredited Member, your annual subscription fee increases to £45.00 (less a discount if your employer is a Corporate Member).

I wish to apply to become an Accredited Member of CMA.

Name _____ CMA membership number _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Signature _____

I enclose a cheque for £20.00 payable to CMA

Please return to: Writtle College, Lordship Road, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RR

The Countryside Management Association Training Programme April - July 2003

Date	12-13 April 2003
Title	Advance Amphibian Training
Venue	Wepre Country Park Connahs Quay, Flintshire,
Region	Wales
Aim	A two day workshop suitable for people with some prior knowledge of amphibians looking for a more advanced course.
Cost	CMA members £20.00 Non members £40.00
Contact	01244 541005

Date	7 May 2003
Title	The Effects of the CROW Act on National Nature Reserves
Venue	Yarner Wood, Bovey Tracey, South Devon
Region	South West
Aim	The implications of the CROW Act for access and management in NNRs
Contact	01364 644287

Date	21 May 2003
Title	Woodland Management
Venue	Warton Crag LNR
Region	Northern
Aim	A workshop looking at a range of woodland management issues
Contact	01228 606227

Date	21 May 2003
Title	Community Involvement and Lantern Lit Procession
Venue	Daventry Country Park
Region	Home Counties and East Anglia
Aim	A participative workshop, getting local people involved in planning a procession, and creating lanterns it includes a visit to a local school, risk assessment and marshalling techniques
Contact	01327 877193

Date	28 May 2003
Title	Natterjack Toads
Venue	Talacre Dunes North Flintshire
Region	Wales
Aim	An introduction to managing habitats for natterjack toads, including relevant aspects of the law
Contact	01352 719177

Date	09 July 2003
Title	Dormice - Habitat and Handling
Venue	Dartmoor National Park
Region	South West
Aim	A workshop considering all issues relating to the management of habitats for dormice
Contact	01364 644287

Unless otherwise stated, costs are CMA members (all categories) FREE; non members £25.00.
There is no cost if CMA membership is applied for on the day on the course.

For further information:
CMA Administration, Writtle College, Lordship Road, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex. CM1 3RR
Tel. 01245 424263 email cma@writtle.ac.uk
www.countrysideassociation.org.uk

Lazy Dog Weeding Brigades **specialists in the removal of deep-rooted perennials**

Thanks to DEFRA, we are in the process of kick-starting & approving several new Lazy Dog Weeding Brigades. This action is in response to a demand created by the Lazy Gang Project (2000, 2001 & 2002), in which our own work-force took on outside contracts in different parts of the country. Many of these demonstrations were highly successful, and when conditions were good, the control of weeds in grassland (in particular) was highly effective. The gang was in constant demand, and often re-engaged by clients for follow-up or 2nd year contracts.

Our intention is to provide links to gang leaders (approved by us), through our web-site (which will be updated regularly). We are expecting this project to develop into a nationwide project, with existing machinery ring offices & conservation contractors, co-ordinating the labour.

In the Lazy-Gang project, we usually worked as a gang of four, charging £200 per day or £50. per man. We lifted roots (or chiselled creeping thistle) for 7hrs each day (taking 20 minutes in tea breaks), and broke for ½ hr at lunchtime. Our contracts ran for up to 3 weeks. These are the kind of costs & work-rates that we are approving.

The most demanding contracts involved summer ragwort removal. Experience taught us that 95% of

this work should be carried on in the cooler months of March/April or Sept/Oct/Nov. Skilled use of the Lazy Dog allows ragwort rosettes to be removed without bending, which makes waiting until the plants grow tall enough to grab, unnecessary. Removing the roots of rosettes from moist land is also much easier & much more successful than in late summer. The sun is not so hot either.....

Again, we found that removing docks from permanent grassland was best carried out in the autumn or early spring, when the land was wet. On one contract (Stanton Park, Wilts), we worked right up to Christmas eve, clearing 7 hectares in 5.5 days (despite plant densities of 30 to 25sq. metres). When the work is done methodically, regrowth from missed plants or broken roots is truly minimal.

It is possible to estimate the cost of using L-D Weeding Brigades on your land, by referring to our Work-Rate Predictor. Refer to the Lazy Dog Weeding Guide for more general guidance.

If you would like to hire a gang : Look through our web-site links section for leaders nearest to you. If there aren't any, please contact us by telephone (01751 417351) or leave a message.

PLEASE ORDER YOUR WEED BRIGADE AS
WELL IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE.

Lazy Dog Tools Ltd Hill Top Farm, Spaunton, Appleton-le-moors North Yorkshire YO62 6TR
Tel/Fax. 01751 417351 or 417799 Mobile: 07713 157895
E-mail: philip@lazydogtoolco.co.uk web:www.lazydogtoolco.co.uk.

Countryside Management Association Study Conference and AGM

Date: Monday 8th to 11th Sept. 2003

**Venue: Pantycelyn Hall,
University of Wales, Aberystwyth**

**Theme:
The 21st Century
Countryside Professional**

Continuing Professional Development time to submit your records!

If you are an Accredited Member you need to demonstrate your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) by submitting a CPD record with your membership renewal. You will find a blank CPD record sheet in your Accredited Member Handbook, however, if you have not kept a spare blank, please contact Writtle for a replacement.

Contributing to Ranger, Members' News and other CMA Activities

Ranger 66, if you haven't seen it has articles on:

- Access
- Creating Living Willow Structures
- Environmental Interpretation
- ARKive a project to create a digital record of 39,000 endangered species
- A book review
- The Parish Lengthsman project in Lancashire
- Environmental Art
- Health and safety matters

Where else can you get so much in twenty pages that covers such a breadth of subjects?

If you have something you would like to write about on some of the above subjects or others, then I would love to hear from you. You can earn CPD points and the respect of your employer and your colleagues.

You may also like to contribute to Members' News, a training event, support your regional committee or simply encourage a colleague to join the CMA. All the contact details you will ever need are on page 4.



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