Carbon Copy

October/November 2017

Autumn tree planting time!

Hello and welcome to the latest issue of our Carbon Copy newsletter.

We’re in the middle of Autumn now; the leaves are turning, the weather begins to chill and the longer nights draw closer. In this issue we will discuss some of the woodland news and activities that you can partake in this season.

For the last five years Premier and the Woodland Trust have hosted a series of tree planting days throughout the country and for the 4th consecutive year tree planting will return to Heartwood Forest this November.

Heartwood Forest, located near Sandridge, just north of St Albans in Hertfordshire, is an 858-acre site and is the largest of The Woodland Trust’s woods in England and also the largest continuous new native woodland in the country. Already some 500,000 trees have been planted at the site, which contains some 44 acres of precious ancient woodland, our equivalent of the rainforest, which sadly now makes up just 2% of UK land cover, and dates back to at least 1600AD as well as containing newly planted woodland. The site is seeking to become the largest continuous native forest in England.

Each year Carbon Capture members team up with the Premier Paper Group and the Woodland Trust to plant on average 5,000 trees at the Heartwood site. It is because of this, as well as our commitment to the Carbon Capture programme, that the tree planting project is nearing completion. We tip our woolly hats and lift a shovel to commend all of the hard work and commitment that has gone into this project to create the largest continuous native forest in England.

Pine Cone Epiphanies

Pine cones fall in autumn and can be found not too far from conifer trees and in conifer dominated woodland. There are two species ofnative conifer tree that produce cones: Scots pine and common juniper. These trees have different shaped pine cones and will hold on to the cones for different lengths of time. Here are three quick & creative pine cone ideas that you can put to use this autumn:

What can you do with pine cones?

- Decorations – either keep it looking natural or liven the pine cone up with glitter or paint to give your home that authentic autumn feel.
- Rustic bird feeder – mix bird feed lard with lard and spread all over a pine cone, attach with rope to dangle from a tree; voila tasty treats for our feathered friends this autumn.
- Mulch – simple but effective, pine cones make great mulch in your garden keeping slugs at bay, providing habitats for spiders and protecting your garden from soil erosion.

Woodland in autumn

Autumn’s a time of change, some animals leave for the winter while others prepare for the cold weather to come. Stunning fungal sculptures emerge and trees put on a dazzling display of colour.

This is the best time of year to get outdoors. There’s nothing better than wrapping up warm, donning your wellies or walking boots and heading out to see the leaves changing colour, from gorgeous golds to russet reds. Here are 3 things to do this autumn with the Woodland Trust:

- Get out and about
  - As the days shorten and temperatures drop take a walk along wooded paths, crunch on fallen leaves and smell fruits ripening in hedgerows.
- Tell us what you see -
  - Recording your seasonal sightings with the Woodland Trust’s Nature’s Calendar will help scientists observe how the changing climate is affecting the UK’s wildlife.
- Have fun as a family -
  - Autumn is an enchanting time to be out in the woods so get out and get muddy together. Visit www.thewoodlandtrust.org for lots of exciting ideas.