

## CONFERENCE & AWARDS FOR BIOLOGICAL RECORDING

Report by Mandy Henshall

### PURPOSE

1. To update Trustees on the NBN Conference and Awards for biological recording.

### TRUSTEE ACTION

2. Note the current status of the projects detailed.

### NBN CONFERENCE 2015

3. The programme can be seen in the separate attachment. Other than one student speaker slot on Friday, the line-up of speakers is complete.

We opened up speaker slots as abstract submissions and CEDaR have successfully taken one of these sessions.

There have been some comments on Twitter (from one individual) regarding the lack of female keynote speakers. We have opened up the remaining slot to her with a view to her discussing the lack of females involved in biological recording.

4. So far, 143 people have registered. We expect the final number to be over 150, which was our aim.
5. We have funding for nine students through the following organisations: LUC (Land Use Consultants), Exeter University, Newcastle University, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomological Society, BESS / York University and Nottingham Trent University. We are continuing to try and secure funding for 6 other students. Seven non-sponsored students are also attending.
6. We also have the following sponsorship: Forest Carbon – for the John Burnett memorial lecture, Natural Aptitude – for the printed programme, Habitat Aid – for the lunch.

A Conference sponsorship brochure has been produced to assist with gaining sponsorship and to outline the options available. We are trying to secure funding for 15 NGO spaces. Unfortunately, local firms such as Yorkshire Tea and Yorkshire Water have not been willing to sponsor.

7. A printed Conference booklet is again being produced this year.
8. During proceedings the presentation for Honorary Membership will be made to Bill Ely. Bill isn't aware he is receiving this Award and has been brought to the Conference as a speaker in order to keep it secret up until the award is made!
9. There is still space for lunchtime posters / displays. Trustees are welcome to put forward nominees from their organisations to take these.
10. We are continuing to promote the Conference and the speakers involved right up until the event and bookings will remain open throughout.

11. We will conduct a review of the Conference via a Google Form.

## Awards for biological recording and information sharing

12. The response to the awards has been fantastic with 53 nominations made:

Gilbert White – 23 Adult; 17 youth

David Robertson – 9 Adult; 4 youth

Social media was a significant aid to securing nominations, especially for the youth categories. We have already made good contacts for the 2016 awards, who have asked us to let them know as early as possible, so that they can promote them through their own comms channels much earlier on in the process.

13. The Awards committee is meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October to decide upon the winners.

14. Winners will be notified thereafter and invited to the event on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

For the youth award, if the child cannot attend on 19<sup>th</sup>, alternative arrangements will be made to present the awards at their school.

15. Each winner will receive a framed certificate along with the following prizes:

Gilbert White – adult and youth: Swarovski binoculars

David Robertson – adult and youth: Cameras Underwater £100 voucher.

*(We are trying to secure further marine prizes and will assess the options based on who the winners are / what their specialism is after the 21<sup>st</sup> October meeting)*

16. The draft programme for the Award's ceremony is attached at Appendix A. At present 96 people are attending the ceremony, but we expect more to want to attend on the night. The venue can hold 150 people.

17. In terms of publicity, we will have a press release prepared detailing who the winners are. This will be embargoed until 8.30pm on 19<sup>th</sup> November and will be sent to national and regional media, as well as member comms teams.

We also have interest from BBC Wildlife to run a story on the Awards / winners in the January issue and are maintaining communications to ensure this happens.

We are also keen to run stories on individual nominees, as well as the winners, to highlight the amazing work going on and being undertaken by a wide variety of individuals. However, we need to instigate this form of promotion without the nominees who didn't win knowing they were nominated (this seems to be the preference of the committee, but will be discussed on 21<sup>st</sup>).

Appendix A



## AWARDS 2015

### UK Awards to celebrate biological recording and information sharing

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
*Merchant Taylor's Hall, York*

Sponsored by



**18:00** Welcome drinks and canapes

**19:15** Introduction to the Awards by NBN Chairman, Michael Hassell

NBN Patron, Earl Selborne and Swarovski Optik Country Manager, Peter Antoniou  
announce and present the Awards

**19:20** Terrestrial and freshwater Awards  
Gilbert White, Youth Award

**19:25** Terrestrial and freshwater Awards  
Gilbert White, Adult Award

**19:30** Marine and coastal Awards  
David Robertson, Youth Award

**19:35** Marine and coastal Awards  
David Robertson, Adult Award

**19:40** NBN Special announcement

**19:45** Networking with cash bar

**20:30** Event close

*A cash bar will be available from 18.00*

Marine awards supported by

