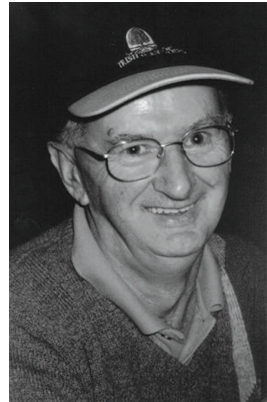


## Joe Treacy 1939-2006

It was on the morning of 15 September that we learnt of the untimely death of our friend and former colleague Joe Treacy, while on the Society of Irish Foresters' annual study tour in Galicia, northern Spain. That Joe died immersed in what he loved will, in time, be a source of consolation to those that were shocked and saddened by his sudden death. Joe was a larger than life character, full of fun and always on the move and is sadly missed by many of his former colleagues and throughout the wider forestry community.

Joe was born in 1939 in Scarriff in his beloved Banner County which he followed with considerable pride in their hurling glory days of the 1990s. He was educated in St. Flannan's College, Ennis and started his forestry career on entering UCD forestry school in October 1957. After graduation in 1963 Joe went into the timber business and worked for both Morgan McMahons and Brooks Thomas, where he gained his considerable interest in, and knowledge of, timber. In 1968 Joe entered into two very important partnerships which were to influence the rest of his life. First, and most importantly, he married Pat in March, and in October joined the then Forestry Division of the Department of Lands, taking up his first posting as a Forester in Glenmalure, Co Wicklow. Later he moved to the Assistant District Inspector post in Wicklow. He was promoted to the position of Utilization Inspector in 1976 where he used his considerable knowledge of timber and the timber business to great effect. In 1989 on the formation of Coillte, Joe became Marketing Manager for the Eastern Region a position he held until he changed careers in 1993.



Never happy to sit still, Joe pursued further professional qualification and in 1994 he became a member of the Marketing Institute of Ireland, a qualification he used to great effect in one of his new areas of interest, notably Wicklow Tourism. Joe maintained his interest in forestry, running a small consultancy business and was a regular on the Society annual study tour. He had a particular interest in Christmas trees which he grew and sold in his adopted home of Greystones. He wrote the *Christmas Tree Growers Companion* for the Irish Christmas Tree Growers Association, a much valued contribution to the then fledgling industry.

Always in motion Joe had many other interests outside of forestry. Gardening was probably his number one interest/relaxation but he also followed politics closely, almost as closely as the stock market, hurling and cards, a combination which often led to some heated exchanges with friends and colleagues. But Joe never held a

grudge and was always there to help friends and colleagues in need – often unnoticed by everyone but the recipient. He was generous to a fault.

Joe valued his Christian faith and was a regular churchgoer and supported his parish and community in many unsung ways – every year he supplied the Christmas trees to his local parish church. But above all Joe was a great family man and a loving partner to Pat and father and real friend to his daughters Fiona, Trudy, Emma and Christine. In recent years, the girls added to his joy with grandchildren.

To Pat and his family we extend our sincerest sympathies.

*And there's a barrel that I didn't fill  
Beside it, and there may be two or three  
Apples I didn't pick upon some bough.  
But I am done with apple picking now.  
Essence of winter sleep is on the night,  
The scent of apples: I am drowsing off.*

*After Apple Picking* by Robert Frost

May he rest in Peace.

*Bill Murphy*