



EUROPEAN FOREST NETWORK



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PREFACE



Forest. At the sound of this word, each of us recalls a different image. It results not only from diverse forest environment which we experience every day, but also from aesthetic sensitivity which is different for all of us. We live in various parts of Europe, in different cultural circles and we use different languages; moreover, we have different traditions and customs transmitted by our ancestors. Each country has slightly different forests, law regulations, economy and different forest utilisation. Nevertheless, the peculiar “energy” which stimulates life in the forest is the same, inspiring the same feelings and emotions in people. Perhaps this is the reason why, despite a different approach to forest environment in each country, we understand each other well, we like to spend time together and discuss what secrets lie behind trees moved by the wind.

Contemporary **forestry** is not only the process of production of high quality wood material, but a **form of forest utilisation, satisfying all social needs, both material and spiritual, with simultaneous conservation of natural wealth**. This, in turn determines new tasks faced by foresters and forest lovers and enforces a necessity of innovative approach to forest ecosystem. The consequence is understanding and accepting an obvious fact that the correlation between humans and the forest is one-way: it is the human that needs the forest. Forests can do without humans. Therefore, we must develop a different perception of this environment and notice what we can gain from it, but also develop a sense of responsibility towards it.

The human-forest relationship and forest utilisation have been changing over the centuries, just as our needs. With its intractable richness of species, not entirely known principles, laws and secrets, forest constitutes peculiar excellence in pure form. It hides a deeper thought, an idea which can be a source of endless inspiration for each person. It also constitutes a material value which can be seen in aesthetic qualities of wooden houses



or furniture. Diverse aspects of forest utilisation and values provided by it in the past and nowadays should be discussed in a broader group. We need a better understanding of social expectations, but also be able to find social communication methods in order to explain more effectively the needs of forest management.

Grounds for such discussion have been laid by **the European Forest Network (EFN)**, an unofficial network of forest associations operating in almost each European country. The main aim of the EFN is an exchange of information and experiences as well as cooperation in the

scope of common implementation projects, such as seminars or conferences. Thanks to a better understanding of social needs in Europe and greater knowledge of nature, we can manage and protect forest environment better and more effectively. Therefore, we kindly invite all members of forest associations in Europe to actively join in the development of “forest thought” on the grounds provided by the EFN.

Prof. Dr. Habil. Dariusz J. Gwiazdowicz

AUSTRIAN FOREST SOCIETY

(Österreichischer Forstverein)



The Austrian Forest Society is a non-political independent organization. Its main objectives are the conservation, improvement and maintenance of Austrian forests through sustainable and multifunctional usage. Therefore, its goal is to improve the knowledge related to forest science and management experience continuously and it is strongly engaged in further education. A particular concern is to inform the public about the importance of the forest with regard to the wellbeing of the inhabitants. In terms of its objectives the Austrian Forest Society also considers itself as a natural and environmental protection organization. Therefore the Austrian forest Society is also member of the “Umweltdachverband” an environmental umbrella organisation

Foundation and development

In the mid 1850ies forest conditions varied extraordinarily in the former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. There were virgin

forests still waiting for exploitation while other regions were already deforested and left to karst formation.

However, the demand for firewood decreased due to improved technologies and the use of substitutes i.e. fossil fuels. As a result of population growth and an increase in construction activities the demand for timber increased.

In order to promote the sustainable management of the forests, independent Regional-Forest-Societies developed in several individual crownlands of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy such as in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, Upper Austria, Western Galicia, Croatia and Slavonia and Hungary from the 1840ies onwards. The foundation of the “Reichsforstverein” took place in Vienna on May 7th/8th 1852. From the very beginning, the statutes of the Austrian “Reichsforstverein” upheld the full independence of the Regional-Forest-Societies and emphasized its own independence.

The motive to establish a forest society for the whole Empire was based on the recognition that the monarchy's forestry had many characteristics that were common to all countries.

The first President of the young Austrian Forest Society was Prince Adolf zu Schwarzenberg. The Austrian "Quarterly Journal for Forestry" already founded in 1851, was appointed to serve as the public organ of the Society. It existed until 1960.

Composition of members

From the very beginning, the Austrian Forest Society was open for equal membership to all interested persons involved in forestry. The members therefore included forest owners, foresters from all fields of activity, scientists as well as friends and patrons of forestry at all.

Today almost half of the members are employees throughout Austria and around a quarter are forest owners and people who support the goal to protect of the forest, so called "friends of the forest".

The group of employees includes persons who either work for individual authorities in various functions (supervision, promotion, consultation, nature conservation, etc.) or in private and public forest enterprises both in management and in practice. The group of forest owners includes both farmers with a few hectares of land as well as large forest enterprises with thousands of hectares.



■ **Signature campaign to avoid the opening of forests for mountainbikers. Around 110,000 signatures were handed over to the former minister for agriculture, environment and forestry by the chairman (right) and one of the 3 vice-chairmen (left).**

Currently, the Austrian Forest Society as an umbrella organization comprises six Regional-Forest-Societies, based in the federal states Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria and Vienna, Upper Austria and Salzburg, Styria and Tyrol. In total there are 4,075 members, including 32 members, of the umbrella organization.

Main activity directions

The Austrian Forest Society considers itself as a platform for all those who's matter of concern are forests and forestry in particular forest owners and forestry practitioners, experts from



■ Field trip, Annual Austrian Forestry Conference 2017

science and research, the administration as well as other persons, companies and institutions interested in the forest. This results in a unique network of expertise on all matters related to the forest. The Austrian Forestry Society is committed to sustainable forest management and safeguarding of all forest functions. This results in the sustainable provision of wood as a renewable raw material as well as the provision of diverse ecosystem services, taking into account the economic, ecological and social aspects. The Society is mainly active in the following areas:

1. Accumulate expertise through the Groups of Experts and the Presidium in the form of:

- a. Development of position papers on important topics
 - b. Support of projects developed by the Group of Experts
2. The Austrian Forestry Society is particularly concerned about the transfer of up-to-date professional knowledge to anyone interested in the forest.
3. Networking and communication as well as public relations are important issues. The Society runs a homepage and creates a forest calendar. From the strategic point of view, the public relations work is carried out by the presidium together with the managing director.



■ Annual Austrian Forestry Conference

The technical work within the Austrian Forestry Society is carried out by 13 Groups of Experts and Working Groups. These include:

- 🌀 AG CIPRA: The Society is a member of CIPRA. Their goal is sustainable development in the Alps.
- 🌀 Business Administration: The technical committee sees itself as an open forum for all interested members from the Regional-Forest-Societies for the discussion about forestry economic topics. In addition to the core business area, regional and macroeconomic as well as welfare economic issues related to the forest are taken up.
- 🌀 Research, development and information technology: It is an interface between forestry practice and science to support the implementation of forest-related research issues and industry-relevant projects.
 - Forest History: The focal point lies in the field of informative publications, but also in the organization of conferences and workshops on the dissemination of forest-historical knowledge and in the care of museums and exhibitions of forestry content.
 - Forest Resources and Facilities: The general objective is to further develop methods of resource management to safeguard

the productive, conservation, recreational and welfare functions of the forests.

Protection of Forest: Current questions in the field of forest protection are to be solved by means of seminars, lectures and publications.

Forest Operation and Forest Technology: New developments and insights in forest work, safety and timber harvesting technology, as well as current problems and the impact of new technologies on humans and the environment are discussed and made accessible in the form of seminars, lectures and publications.

Silviculture and Nature Conservation: The technical committee wants to fulfil a dual bridging function: (1) intermediary between science and practice; and (2) bridge builder between conservation and forestry. Its members are made up of managing directors, representatives of the authorities, the chambers, The State Forest, University and research institutes and foresters who are fully active in the management of national parks and in natural space management.

The AG Site Mapping aims at the exchange of information and knowledge transfer about the methods of site mapping, applications and instructions, and interpretation

International Forest Policy.

The most important activities of the past 10 years are summarized in table.

2007 – 2008	Project “Waldbodenlehrpfad Taferlklausen” (Education trail forest soil Taferlklausen)
2008	Financial support “Reorganization of the Forest Museum “Silvanum”
2009 – continually	Forest Economics Conferences
2011	“Preserve and use endangered knowledge” - Interview series with FOL Grabner, Austrian Forestry Museum Silvanum
2012	Study “The hunting regulations of the federal states in comparison”
2012	“Raidering declaration of the forest-based sector in Austria on “Multifunctional forest management and new large-scale out-of-use positions”
2012 – continually	Forest and Hunting-Dialog, “Mariazeller Declaration”
2013	Workshop “Measuring and Evaluating Forest Rejuvenation”
2013	Forestry seminar for teachers in the field of biology
2014	Publication “Treasures in the Forest - Culture and History”

2014	“The Austrian “Reichsforstverein” and the Forest Journal” ‘Article published on occasion of the 125-years anniversary of the Forest Journal
2015	AUSTROFOMA Innovations-Award
2015	Signature campaign to avoid the opening of forests for mountainbikes
2015 – 2019	Co-financing -project “Threatened genetic material ash”,
2016	Publication “The development of forestry education in Austria”
2017	Workshop “Forest Planning Instruments”
2017	Film Project “Old Tools - Reinterpreted”
2017	Workshop “Silviculture 2050 +? - Shaping the future today “
2017	Position Paper “Positioning on Nature Conservation Policy in Austria”
2017 - 2018	Project “Nature connects”
2018	Financial support for the translation of the book „Science and Hope. A Forest History” into German language



■ Representatives of the Forest & Huntig-Dialog, „Mariazeller Declaration”

Conclusion

Looking back at the time of the establishment of the Austrian Forest Society about 150 years ago it is obvious, that the objectives that were set by the founding members are still up-to-date, although the focus has shifted according to the changing social and political frame conditions and the trodden path has become a different one due to the improvement of scientific knowledge.

The goals of the Society's activities such as the preservation of the forests, the improvement of their condition, the increase of the yield taking into account the respective site conditions, and the good qualification of the people working in forestry, which have been expressed already in 1853, are still important tasks nowadays, although new fields have been added.

In the forests of today, not only the general economic development and the change of political frame conditions have left visible footprints over time as well as the people who worked in this forest professionally and took care of the provision of its multiple services. The number of people employed in the Austrian forests is extremely low, but they are assigned a high level of cultural responsibility by assuming concern for the design of around 50% of the country's territory. Many of them were and are linked to the Austrian Forestry Society by the individual membership in a Regional-Forest-Society and thus shaped by it in a certain way. Despite the high demands on the capability of domestic forests in the course of time, the principle of sustainable forestry management has never been surrendered. The Regional-Forest-Societies and the Austrian Forest Society as the roof organisation have contributed a great deal to this due to their extensive educational work. Within the last decades attempts have also been made to inform the public about the importance of forests for the wellbeing of the whole population and to build a bridge to forest users working outside the forest. In this sense, the Society invites everybody interested in forests

and forestry to become an equal member regardless of status and professional activity. Its members therefore include forest owners, farmers, foresters from all fields of activity, scientists, businessmen, tradespeople, hunters and persons involved in nature conservation as well.

Dipl.-Ing. Martin Höbarth

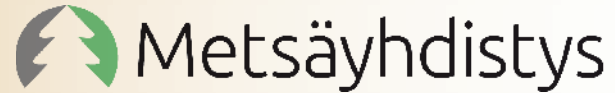
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FINNISH FOREST ASSOCIATION

(Suomen Metsäyhdistys)



The Finnish Forest Association, established 1877, is a cooperation body for its members and stakeholders and the associations main activities are in communications. The Forest Association supports the promotion of forest interests, brings forth the topical possibilities forests can have in developing the society and strengthens the sustainable and responsible use of forests using communications.

Membership

The Finnish Forest Association has 48 member organizations as its members. There are no individual members. The members represent a vast range of different interests from different forest organisations, research organisations, companies to different organizations which promotes the recreational use of forests.

Activities

To support its activities the Forest Association gathers, refines and publishes information on forestry and the use of forests.

Our vision is that the sustainable use of forests and the significance of the forest sector as a sustainable development sector has, is understood and widely approved in the society. The association also follows and anticipates the effect changes at home and abroad can have on the Finnish forest sector.

The weekly forest.fi netbased news service articles are written in English and Finnish and in addition to this there is a dictionary on forest terminology as well

■ Forest.fi OnlineMagazine

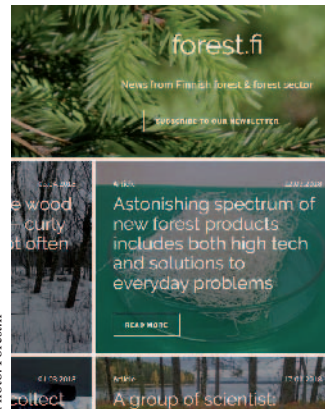


Photo: Forest.fi



Photo: Vilma Issakainen

■ Forest education

as an information package on forest related issues. The forest bioeconomy future catalogue highlights the newest products and services of forest bioeconomy.

The Forest Academy for Decision-Makers is a forest forum for decision-makers in all spheres of the Finnish society, both in the forest sector and outside, for politicians, authorities, business actors, the media, NGOs and ENGOS. It is a four-day course

where information is shared, and networks are built. The concept has also been used during the accession of new EU-members in early 2000, as well as for the Russian forest administration and the concept has been sold to Tanzania, Mozambique and Central-America.

Cooperation with schools and teachers aims to ensure that everyone living in Finland has the basic understanding of the importance of the forests for the Finnish economy as well as skills concerning forest-related livelihoods, forest culture as well as forest nature and its protection. The association develops this cooperation together with the members and other stakeholders. The intention is on the one hand to present the forest sector as a possible work opportunity in the future and on the other hand give information to the decision makers of tomorrow. Projects targeted to schools are e.g. Forest Week for Schools in the Helsinki-area as well as the Forest Quiz. More than one million Finns have participated in the Forest Quiz, targeted to 14-15-year-old school-children, during the more than 35 years the Quiz has been carried out.

Finance

The Finnish Forest Association is financed based on membership fees as well as project-based financing. The most significant financers are the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, The Finnish Forest Foundation and the foundation Metsämiesten Säätiö.

■ Forest Academy



Photo: Saku Ruusila



Photo: Vilma Issakainen

■ Forest quiz

History

The Finnish Forest Association was established in 1877. After Metsähallitus, it is the second oldest still functioning forest organization in Finland. The stimulus for establishing the association was the fact that Finnish forests were considered to be in poor condition.

Following and furthering all forest issues became too much for the small association. Thus Finnish Forest Association on the other hand narrowed its own sphere of influence and on the other hand was active in establishing other forest organizations such as trade and labor organizations, organizations aimed at furthering private forestry, Finnish Forest Research Institute and lastly in 1990's, the national museum and science center Lusto.

The Finnish Forest Association has not had individuals as members since 1941 after which all actual members have been various kinds of organizations. During the 1990's, the associations most important activities have been common communication for the whole forest sector.

Finnish Forest Association has organized national Forest Week since 1925; the event has been known 2003 onwards as Forest Days. Finnish Forest Association's international activities started in 1946 when the Nordic Forest Union was established. The Finnish Forest Association's current modus operandi took shape mainly during the 1990's.

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GERMAN FOREST SOCIETY

(Deutscher Forstverein)



The German Forest Society wants to improve forestry and forestry conditions in Germany through forestry initiatives, public relations work and professional training and continuing education. With the experience, interest and knowledge of its more than 6,000 members, the German Forest Society has been the first point of contact since 1899 when it comes to forest.

History

The German Forest Society (GFS) was founded on 21 August 1899. In addition to the German Reich and its states, the GFS was from 1899 to 1919 the only address of German forestry policy. First president was Bernhard Danckelmann. A year later, the Forest Council was established as a political committee of the GFS, in which large private forest owners and representatives of the Country Forest Societies dealt with current issues. With the help of the GFS the German Forestry Council was

founded in the year 1919. After World War II on the occasion of the 35th Annual Meeting in September 1952, the GFS was re-established. After the German reunification, the Forest Societies of Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia were founded and were incorporated in 1990/1991 in the GFS. On the occasion of its 100th anniversary in Schwerin in 1999, for the first time there was no more a pure symposium, but the public was involved in the conference.

Structure

The German Forest Society is the umbrella organization of 11 Country Forest Societies:

- 🌿 Baden-Württemberg Forest Society
- 🌿 Bavarian Forest Society
- 🌿 Brandenburg Forest Society
- 🌿 Hessian Forest Society



Photo: Marcus Kuehling

■ GFS meeting Regensburg 2017

- 🌿 Forest Society Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- 🌿 Forest Society North Rhine-Westphalia
- 🌿 Northwest-German Forest Society (Lower Saxony, Bremen, Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein)
- 🌿 Forest Society Rhineland-Palatinate / Saarland
- 🌿 Forest Society Saxony-Anhalt
- 🌿 Saxon Forest Society
- 🌿 Thuringian Forest Society

The GFS is a non-profit and non-governmental organization that is financed by its members. The honorary board of the GFS has a President and three Vice-Presidents. The board nominates adviser for several issues. The Society has its own, full-time office with a managing director. The assembly of the German and Country Forest Societies twice a year and the general assembly of its members every two years represent the most important society organs. The GFS has its own subsidiary company called “ID Wald GmbH” that handles the commercial activities for the GFS and does communication work for the forestry sector.

Goals

The Society pursues according to its statute among other things the following goals:

- 🌿 Caring for the local forest in the context of the forest laws as well as the nature landscape and environmental protection
- 🌿 Improvement of the framework conditions of German forestry sector through forest policy initiatives
- 🌿 Promotion of forest and forestry
- 🌿 Education and training of its members

In the Society current problems of the forestry and wood industry are discussed and looking for problem solutions and ways out. This covers issues from the fields of silviculture, business administration, timber marketing, wood technology and ergonomics, as well as forest and environmental legislation, nature conservation, climate change and forest policy.

Photo: Marcus Kuehling



■ GFS fieldtrip

Activities

Platform: Core of the Forest Society is the platform building for its members. The exchange and training take place in meetings, events, fieldtrips and study tours in Germany and around the world.

Meeting: GFS are the bi-annual Meeting of the GFS. This meeting over several days is the leading conference dealing with forest and forestry in Germany and has regularly more than 1,000 participants. Within the meeting there are 25 seminars as well as 45 fieldtrips.

Awards: On the occasion of the 100th birthday of Lorenz Wappes (Chairman of the DFV from 1918 to 1933) the Lorenz Wappes Prize was founded in 1960 by the GFS. The award honours outstanding activities in the field of public representation of the forest and forestry. The foundation of the Bernhard-Eduard-Fernow-Plakette together with the American Forestry Society (SAF) in 1964 is intended to honour individuals who have made outstanding contributions to international forestry cooperation.

Committees: The Forest Society forms committees dealing with current topics such as climate change, timber industry and

nature conservation. These committees prepare statements or policy papers.

Cooperations: The association is a member of the German Forestry Council, Board of Forestry and Forestry Technology and PEFC Germany. He also works closely with the Tree of the Year - Dr. Silvius Wodarz Foundation.

Young people: In 2017 the GFS established a platform for young professional beginners with now 300 members.

International: The International Sustainable Forest Management Network (NIWA) was set up in 2010 to provide a platform for international forestry professionals. GFS is internationally active in the merger of the European Forestry Network (EFN) and the UNECE / FAO-FCN Forest Communicators' Network. In addition, since 1984, the forestry association cooperates with the Polish Forestry Society (Polskie Towarzystwo Leśne, PTL). Since 2015 GFS carry out the project "Forest Expert Program – exchange for sustainability) financed by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Membership and member magazine

The members are mainly foresters, forest owners and forest scientists and is open for all interested people. The organization structure of the GFS in 11 independent Country Forest Societies corresponds to the federal state structure of Germany. The Forest Society currently has about 6,000 members. The membership is connected with the entry into a country forestry

association. Any natural person can become a member. After numerous precursors since 2006 the forest association magazine "proWALD" is published as a notification body over the forest and the forestry in Germany

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ICELANDIC FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

(Skógræktarfélag Íslands)



How the association came to be

At the time of human settlement in Iceland, in the 9th century, birch forest and woodland covered 25–40% of Iceland's land area. With the arrival of people deforestation began. The forests were felled for timber (fuelwood, charcoal (to smelt iron and make tools), building materials) and cleared for agriculture (fields, grazing land). Grazing by domestic animals imported by the settlers, particularly sheep, prevented regeneration of the forest. All this, along with a harsh climate (particularly the little ice age during the Middle ages), volcanic activity and the vulnerability of Iceland's volcanic soils, led to severe deforestation, loss of vegetation cover and soil erosion. At the turn of the 20th century the forest cover was down to under 1% of the country's area and soil erosion had led to the abandonment of farms in parts of the country.

In the late 19th century a movement to combat erosion and restore forests to the land began. Organised forestry is considered to have started in Iceland in 1899 with the planting of a pine



■ Staff from the American Embassy in Reykjavik and their families planting trees at Úlfjótuvatn, the farm owned by the Icelandic Forestry Association, under the guidance of Einar Gunnarson of the Icelandic Forestry Association (far right).

stand at Þingvellir in SW-Iceland and owes much to three men, all from Denmark; Carl H. Ryder, who was a merchant marine captain who perceived the problems associated with a lack of forest resource, forestry professor Carl V. Prytz, who provided expertise, and the forester Christian E. Flensburg, who did most of the early work. In 1907 the parliament passed a forestry and soil conservation act and the Icelandic Forest Service was established in 1908. The early years of forestry in Iceland focused on protecting forest remnants and experimenting with exotic tree species. The results were encouraging and fuelled a greater general interest in forestry.

In 1930 a large festival was held at Þingvellir, to commemorate the thousand-year anniversary of Alþingi, Iceland's national parliament. A number of people wanted to mark the occasion by establishing an association focused on re-establishing the forest in Iceland and got together to found Skógræktarfélag Íslands – the Icelandic Forestry Association – at Þingvellir during the festival, on June 27th, 1930. The association's first board was elected at the meeting and the founding members were about 300. Over the next years many local and regional forestry associations were founded all over Iceland. In 1946 the IFA was restructured, to be an umbrella organisation for those local and regional associations.

Membership

The Icelandic Forestry Association (IFA) is a national umbrella organisation for local and regional forestry associations



■ Guests with their chosen Christmas tree at the Icelandic Forestry Association's forest in Brynjudalur. During Advent the association receives groups of people coming to the forest to select and cut down their own Christmas tree.

throughout Iceland, that number about sixty. The combined membership in the member associations is about 7000 people, or just over 2% of the population, making it one of the largest environmental organisations in Iceland. The IFA host an annual General meeting, with representatives from its member associations. At the meetings the board members of the IFA are elected, resolutions passed, the bylaws of the Association amended etc.

The forestry associations in Iceland are volunteer organisations, bringing people together through a shared interest in trees and forestry and with the common goal of increasing the forest and vegetation cover of the country. Anyone can join a forestry association - you don't have to be a forester or forest owner to take part - you just have to want to support the common goal. Members are thus from all walks of life, laymen to farmers and professional foresters. The planting done by forestry associations is largely for recreational forests (areas close to towns and cities) and land reclamation forests, that focus on re-establishing vegetation in sparsely vegetated areas (to be used for recreation in the future). The associations work, to a various extent, with other institutions and organizations in the forestry sector, municipalities and other governmental organisations, forestry and general farmers, other non-governmental organisations and individuals, depending on local conditions and the project at hand.

Main activities

The main goal of the Icelandic Forestry Association (IFA), as set out in its bylaw, is to further the interests of forestry in Iceland and encourage all kinds of environmental improvements. This is done through encouraging and aiding its member associations, encouraging conservation and land reclamation, providing information and education on forestry, encouraging, initiating and collaborating on forestry projects and publishing educational materials.

The IFA itself owns the forest at Brynjudalur, managed as a recreation/Christmas tree forest and co-owns the farm Úlfjótuvatn (with the scouting organisation in Iceland), that is the site of various forestry projects.

The IFA publishes the journal *Skógræktarritið* – the Journal of the Icelandic Forestry Association – twice a year. The Journal is the main forestry publication in Iceland and contains a mix of scientific papers and more general articles. The Association also regularly publishes a newsletter and a small information brochure focused on specific aspects of forestry.

The IFA runs or supervises many projects. Main regular projects include: a) *Landgræðsluskógar* (Land Reclamation Forests) – launched in 1990, funded through a contract with the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources, and focused on re-establishing vegetation and forest cover in sparsely vegetated areas; b) *Opinn skógur* (Open Forest) - co-operative project between forestry associations and various corporate



■ **The recreational forest at Brynjudalur, one of two areas the Icelandic Forestry Association manages directly.**

sponsors focused on the establishment of recreation facilities and provision of educational information in forests; c) Yrkjusjóður (Yrkja Fund) – supervision of an independent fund, with its own board, that provides plants for elementary school children to plant; d) Kolviður (Iceland Carbon Fund) – joint project of the IFA and Landvernd (Icelandic Environment Association) that enables companies, institutions and individuals to offset their transportation-related carbon emission through tree planting.

Other regular activities by the IFA include an annual nomination of a specific tree as Tree of the Year and an annual forestry field trip abroad. The IFA and its member associations

also host a variety of educational and informative events each year, such as guided forest walks, seminars, field trips, conferences etc. The IFA is also the first stop for information for the general public on a great variety of tree-, cultivation- and forestry-related subjects.

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LITHUANIAN SOCIETY OF FORESTERS

(Lietuvos Miškininkų Sąjunga)



Idea to establish association uniting Lithuanian foresters rose in 1921-1922. The first legitimate meeting took place on 29th -30rd in 1929 in Kaunas city (formal capital of Lithuania) numbering 110 members. During meeting the first Lithuanian origin journal on forestry „Our forests“ was represented and published by 2250 printings. Since that date until 1940 J. Kuprionis took position as main editor of the journal.

Before 2nd World War regularly meetings of the association were arranged annually that usually lasted for two days. One day of the meeting was for practicals going to cognitive excursions visiting interesting nature targets as well as factories of wood industry. On June 7th-9th in 1938 the very first international meeting on associations of Baltic States foresters was organized in Kaunas. This event was attended by 21 foresters from Estonia, 17 from Latvia and 100 from Lithuania. Ten meetings were arranged in Lithuania while the activity of association prohibited in 1940.



■ Discussion on reform of State Forest Enterprises.

During the 2nd World War considerable part of the foresters moved to West mainly in Germany. On October 24th - 25th in 1945 emigrants arranged meeting in Hanau, Germany, numbering 60 foresters. Later most part of emigrants form



■ Journal “Our Forests”.



■ European Forester's Orienteering Championships was organized in 2017.



■ Lithuanian foresters visiting colleagues from Austria and Slovenia in 2017.

Germany moved to live in USA. On February 25th in 1950 foresters organized meeting in Chicago, USA. The reasonable output of the meeting in Chicago was decision to publish journal called „Echo of the Forest“.

After Lithuania regained independence in 1990, Lithuanian Society of Foresters (LSF) arranged meeting on February 2nd in Kaunas. The president of the association was elected A. Valavičius. Since independence meetings usually are organized each 2-4 years and 13 started up to date where one of the it imposed special status in 2017 regarding reform of State Forest Enterprises.

At the moment LSF numbers over 1000 members mainly working in state forestry sector. Following three organizations are making activity under association: Organization of Forest Growing Specialists, Community of Forest Rangers and Assembly of Young Forest Lovers. Currently Association of Lithuanian Foresters target activity could be enumerated:

- ☞ developing practical and theoretical background proposals for state institutions;
- ☞ arranging conferences, meetings, workshops on forestry issues;



- 🌀 organizing popular forestry contests;
- 🌀 providing environmental education;
- 🌀 organizing sporting events;
- 🌀 organizing Forest Day events;
- 🌀 working with foreign organizations;
- 🌀 preparing various publications;
- 🌀 applying and organizing various projects related to forestry and other activities.

Edmundas Bartkevičius, Marius Kavaliauskas



■ 11 Behalf 100 year event on regained independence of Lithuania, planted three oaks in Vatican garden.

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NORWEGIAN FORESTRY SOCIETY

(Det Norske Skogselskap)



Short history

The Norwegian Forestry Society (NFS) is an NGO established in 1898 in Oslo. At that time 120 years ago, the situation in Norwegian forests was alarming. The forests had been exploited for several hundred years, and not much thought had been given in the direction of reforestation. A few persons with an interest in forestry saw the situation and hence established the organisation with one important goal: To establish nurseries and do reforestation and afforestation in the whole country.

This has been a rather successful history. At the beginning of the 20th century the growing stock in Norwegian forests counted approximately 250 million m³, while as today the figure is 950 million m³. The yearly increment is 25 million m³.

Memberships

Through 17 county forestry societies the organization has approximately 10.000 members. Among these we find forest



■ The NFA is present at the largest country fair in Norway.



owners, forestry professionals, public service officers, scientists, teachers and people with a more than average interest in sustainable forestry.

Main activities

The NFS is still involved in the nursery business through some of the county forestry societies who are shareholders in several nurseries. The NFS is also offering advisory service on nursery management.

Today, however, emphasis is put on dissemination of information on the multiple services of the forest, i.e. the importance related to climate control through carbon fixation and storage, and the relation between the forest and public health. Our main target groups are pupils and the general public.

The NFS is meeting the public at several occasions through the year, at several fairs, skiing competitions and other events where we can meet a lot of people. Our goal is to promote sustainable forestry and the use of wood as an alternative to fossil resources. We also promote the forest as Norway's largest arena for sports and outdoor activities.

Through NFS and the county forestry societies we arrange theme-days in the forest for children during school. Yearly we arrange 150-200 such days for larger or smaller numbers of

■ **Biofuel demonstration at a Christmas fair, showing photosynthesis in reverse.**



12-15 000 pupils take part in forest theme-days every year.



■ **Forest nursery employees on excursion.**

pupils, counting a yearly total of 12000-15000 pupils and 700-900 teachers.

On these theme-days emphasis is put on sustainable forestry, the use of wood as building material, bioenergy, carbon fixation, forest operations and bio-diversity.

Every year we arrange a quite large forestry conference in cooperation with the Norwegian Forest Owners' Federation, called "Skog og Tre", which means "Forest and Wood". The conference draws 350-400 participants from the forest sector.

The NFS also plans and arrange forest related excursions on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and other bodies upon request.

The NFA publishes the professional magazine Norsk Skogbruk ("Norwegian Forestry"). "Norwegian Forestry" is an independent magazine designed for the forestry sector and presents material on several topics related to forestry. The magazine has 12 issues per year.

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POLISH FOREST SOCIETY

(Polskie Towarzystwo Leśne)



History

In the 19th century Poland was absent on the map of Europe. This however did not limit the activity of Polish foresters and their attempts to unify forestry organisations. In 1866 in Poznań, the Department of Forestry of the Central Economic Society was created (in 1908 its name was changed to the Forestry Association for the Grand Duchy of Poznań). Then in 1882 in Lviv, the Galician Forest Society was created. Following the restoration of Poland's independence, in 1925 unification of all forestry associations in Poland took place, while the Polish Forest Society (PFS) was created. The establishment of the Society was initiated by Henryk Strzelecki (the director of the National School of Forestry in Lviv) and Józef Rivoli (the professor of the Poznań University), endorsed by a group of foresters, forest owners and naturalists.

The main activities of the PFS were:

- exchange of views and experiences at general meetings, both in written and oral form, social gatherings and general



■ "Forest Friends" Festival



■ Classes for visually impaired children

- congresses, publication (in Polish) of a professional journal of forestry, establishment and maintenance of a professional library,
- ✿ submission of memoranda and petitions to the government and autonomous authorities in matters connected with forestry, providing professional opinions and assistance upon request,
- ✿ visitation of forest holdings and maintenance of personal relations between members.



■ Participants of "Forester's Ball"

In 1883, the Society began publishing a scientific journal “Sylvan” which was a continuation of the tradition of issuing this periodical between 1820 and 1858 in Warsaw. Today, “Sylvan” is a monthly journal existing for 198 years, thus being one of the oldest and most respected forest scientific journals in the world.

After World War II, the Polish Forest Society was reactivated in 1946, by establishing 17 regional divisions and the Warsaw division. Currently (2018), 19 divisions operate under the Main Board. With its 136-year history, the Polish Forest Society ranks among the oldest scientific societies in Poland. Within the Society’s activity, 117 annual congresses have been held so far. During World War I and II and due to important reasons such as cholera and influenza epidemic and the great economic crisis, the congresses were not organized.

Current situation of the Polish Forest Society and main directions of its activity

The Polish Forest Society is an association operating in accordance with the law on associations, thereby having a legal personality. Among the Society’s members are foresters employed in the State Forests, as well as national and landscape parks, persons employed in wood industry and nature conservation professionals, journalists, scientists and teachers active in forestry schools and forestry faculties, as well as all those for whom the well-being of Polish forests is of primary importance.



■ Signing an agreement between the Grand Poland Division of PFS and the German Foresters from Brandenburg

The vast majority of 5170 members have higher education, with 183 of them holding scientific degrees and academic titles. 786 of the Society’s members are women, 388 are retired persons, 114 are forestry school students and 86 are university students. The range of activities covers 19 territorial divisions in the entire country. The Society operates in accordance with the Statute (the latest version of which was adopted at the 116th Congress of Division Delegates in 2016) and is adjusted to current challenges faced by forestry.

Among the Society's main activities are: protection of the national heritage including natural environment, landscape and forests; development of forestry (and related) sciences, promotion of scientific achievements and cooperation in implementing research results; promotion of a multiple-use and sustainable forest management model; education of society in the field of forestry and ecology; popularisation of forest traditions and culture; activities aimed at international integration and cooperation in the area of forestry and related sciences (including development of contacts and exchange of experiences in this area); representation of the foresters' environment among the society.

The Society pursues its statutory goals by: organisation of training courses, sessions and scientific conferences; organisation of events popularising knowledge of forests, forestry and related sciences; initiation of research projects and implementation of their results; edition of the "Sylvan" magazine (which is the body of the Society); cooperation with scientific organisations and institutions at home and abroad; expert opinions; maintenance of the library, archives and other devices necessary for the implementation of statutory tasks; raising funds for the implementation of statutory tasks.

Funds for the Society's activities come mainly from contributions from individual and supporting members (natural and legal persons). A part of the funds comes from the implementation of various types of economic projects, publications and services for broadly understood forestry.



■ Some books published by the PFS

The Society issues a number of scientific and popular scientific publications every year. Conference materials, following annual scientific sessions, are published in the form of a monograph on current forestry issues, e.g. 2017 it was a publication on "Economy and nature protection in forests in social expectations".

There are two kinds of commissions operating under the Main Board: functional commissions (Social Communication, Awards, Organisational, International Cooperation) and problem commissions (Heritage and History of Forestry, Forest Economics, Forest Resources Management, Hunting, Forest



■ Medal "Pro bono silvae"
- the highest award of PFS

Protection, Nature Protection, Forestry Policy and Forest Law, Forest Management). The commissions support the work of the Main Board, prepare opinions and organise conferences, seminars and meetings devoted to current problems related to forests and forestry. International exchange between forest societies (in particular, from neighbouring countries) is carried out.

The principal activity of the Main Board, divisions, sections and commissions on the local, regional and national levels is focused

on communication with people who are not professionally engaged in forestry. The Society maintains a dialogue, organises seminars, conferences, field trips and meetings with: children in kindergartens, primary and secondary school students and university students of various fields of education, various professional groups, teachers as well as representatives of local authorities, regional parliaments and the national parliament.

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ROYAL SCOTTISH FORESTRY SOCIETY

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen



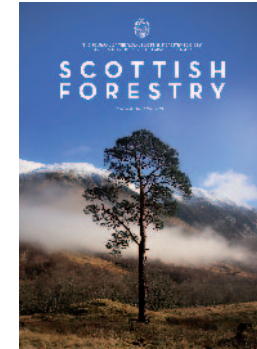
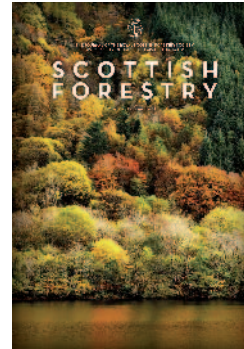
We are a charity devoted to the advancement of forestry in all its branches

Members come from a wide spectrum. Some are involved in forestry or the timber industry, others in conservation and woodland management. There are academics, enthusiastic amateurs and representatives from almost every aspect of Scottish life. The important and all inclusive point is that we love trees and care for the environment.

RSFS has around 700 Members including 25 Corporate Members who are increasingly discovering the advantages of belonging to a Society which has a rich history but which is determined to be relevant and applicable to the issues pertaining to modern forestry.

Our name

We are the oldest forestry society in Britain, founded in 1854. The Society was first named the 'Scottish Arboricultural



■ The Society produces a Journal **Scottish Forestry** which is free to members. The Journal is internationally recognised and is distributed to academic institutions from China to Canada and all destinations between.

Society. The 'excitement' of trees when the society was first formed, reflected hopes that newly introduced species might



■ The society is divided into 5 regions, each of which organises “Field Days” visits and talks within their area. There are usually around 20 Field Days each year.
Alba Trees



■ Glenfeshie

both beautify the landscape and enhance timber production in the way the Dukes of Atholl had done through large-scale planting of larch in the late 18th Century.

Arboriculture in 1850s included the raising and establishment of young trees in open ground by the gardener or estate forester, many estates creating an arboretum to observe the performance of these new species. More familiar species were planted for the improvement of estates as landscape groups, or as shelter belts for stock, or as plantations for timber, whether hardwoods, Scotch fir (*Pinus sylvestris*) or larch (*Larix decidua*).

Queen Victoria became Patron of the Society in 1869; subsequent monarchs have all graciously agreed to be the Society’s Patron. Queen Victoria subsequently and graciously granted a Royal Charter to the Society in 1887 so that it became the **Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society**. In 1930, the Society changed its name to the **Royal Scottish Forestry Society**.

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh was elected an Honorary Member of the Society in 1954 at the Society’s Centenary meeting. Society members were honoured and delighted that he addressed members at the 150th Anniversary Conference.

Our role

In Education

The need to know how to raise, plant, sustain and protect trees, and to make their products available for use has existed from time immemorial. The need persists because techniques

continually develop and change. The Society's first president's writings set an example and a standard. Journal articles over the years have described many practical innovations.

In Conservation

Perhaps unexpectedly, the early records of the Scottish Arboricultural Society, show that in 1868-1872, members were concerned about 'The effects of forests on climate' and approached the British Council for the Advancement of Science to discuss a project on this topic. 150 years later, environmental issues, both climatic and aesthetic, came increasingly to the fore and have materially altered the syllabuses taught at universities.

Our history

RSFS members have a tremendous heritage:

- 🌿 breadth of vision and experience of getting the best out of changes in circumstance;
- 🌿 breadth of membership and the camaraderie that comes from meeting people keen about trees, but from all sorts of background;
- 🌿 an existing framework and tradition of communication and networking by Society conferences, day visits and tours, and the Society Journal;
- 🌿 independence from Government.

The early part of the 19th century included the end of the Napoleonic wars, the expansion of the British Empire, and a

substantial part of the Industrial Revolution, in particular, the development of the steam engine, and, from 1825, the spread of railways. When the society was formed there were only about 157 miles of railway open in Scotland. Woodland covered little more than 4% of the land area. Long-distance movement of timber even by water was difficult and costly.

The Highland & Agricultural Society, formed in 1827, included forestry in its purview. It supported afforestation and gave gold medals and premiums for new planting during the first half of the 19th Century. That Society has consistently over the years, supported forestry in a farming context. The forestry area on the Royal Highland Show ground is evidence of this continuing tradition. Gardens as attributes to large estates were fashionable, owners actively renovating estates under landscape gardeners such as 'Capability' Brown and Repton. This, and the long-standing interest in medicinal herbs, resulted in the formation of the Horticultural Society. That body fostered the introduction of exotic species and sent out plant collectors. Among these was David Douglas, first sent out to North America in 1823.

Initially membership expanded quite rapidly, and from the start included landowners, factors, foresters, and commercial nurserymen. Membership in recent decades has declined, reflecting the overall number of forest managers employed and competition from other groups with an interest in forest management.

A printed record of the activities of the Society first appeared as Transactions in 1858. From the outset, the Society aimed to promote and disseminate knowledge of good practice of forestry and arboriculture by the offer of prizes. Members and others were encouraged to write essays to be read to the society about selected topics of practice. They were also encouraged to display specimens at annual meetings.

Early 20th Century

From the latter part of the 18th Century, innovative landowners recognised the potential for improving untreed land by planting introduced species of trees. Foremost among these was the Duke of Atholl who planted over 4,000 hectares of larch on his Perthshire estate. In 1874, the then president, Prof J. Balfour, in his inaugural address, urged the need to plant waste land in Britain. In 1902, a Government Departmental Committee was formed to consider the present and future position of forestry, including demonstration forest areas.

During World War 1, home-grown timber, in spite of its knottiness and earlier rejection by sawmillers, was used in place of imported timber. By 1918, 64% of timber came from home sources compared with 7% in 1913, substantiating the case for a home-grown reserve of timber.

In 1919 the Forestry Commission was formed and was charged with increasing the aggregate woodland area of the UK to 4.75 million acres (1.92 million hectares), partly by new

planting, and partly by rehabilitation of felled woodland.

The 1920s and early 1930s were a period of agricultural depression. Some new planting was done but little rehabilitation of felled woodlands, so that by 1939 the 1919 forest area had been maintained but not restored to the 1914 level. War-time fellings in the 1939-45 war again drew heavily of home-grown sources.

Recognising the change of circumstances, in 1941 the RSFS and RFS (Royal Forestry Society of England and Wales) submitted a joint memorandum to government on post-war forest policy. In 1943 the Government issued its Post-war Forestry Policy and Post-war Forest Policy - Private Woodlands.

Post War Years

Means to implement national forest policy were incorporated in the Forestry Act 1945. For landowners, the key change was the empowering of the Forestry Commission to introduce a 'Dedication Scheme'. This required owners entering the scheme to specify timber production as the main objective, to work to approved plans; to employ skilled supervision and to keep adequate accounts.

Over the period between the 1947 Census of Woodlands and 2002, the area of woodland not owned by the FC rose from 436 to 849 thousand hectares. Virtually all this planting was supported by one or other grant-aid schemes available to the private woodland owner, together with tax relief on spending on afforestation.



■ The 2018 Excursion was based in Inverness and ran from 6th-9th May. Highlights included – Glen Affric

There were changes in overall post-war forest policy which while affecting forest practice, did not always affect grant schemes. The first major change came in the mid 1950s when the government substituted commercial and social objectives for the previously-stated need to build up a strategic reserve of timber.

A review in 1972 following a HM Treasury cost-benefit study, set creation and maintenance of rural employment as a key issue. During this period, the scale of new planting of privately owned woodlands was strongly influenced by the conditions of particular grants and the provisions for income tax off-sets, current at the time. Grants to conserve, and where possible to restore native woodland, were first initiated in 1978 with the introduction of the 'Native Pinewood grant'.

In 1988, UK forestry was removed from all previously available tax reliefs except in relation to inheritance tax.

Subsequent grants were raised, in order to offset the effects of loss of tax concessions. The new grant system placed greater importance on broadleaved woodland, leading to a short-term reduction in conifer planting and difficulties for nurserymen growing conifer nursery stock in anticipation of continuing large orders for conifer planting stock.

However the past 12 months have seen a renewal of interest in new planting of commercial conifer schemes.

This has been in the doldrums since the changes to taxation nearly 30 years ago. Due to the long-term nature of a project of this type, it is difficult to say how many of these schemes will come to fruition, or over what timescale. However, in this period several large areas of land have been purchased for planting schemes, with prices in the range of £3,000-£5,000 per 'plantable' hectare being paid for the best land. Prices depend on the proportion of land that is deemed 'plantable', the capability of the land to grow good quality conifers, and the availability of alternative uses for surplus land and buildings. As always, location matters.

At present, investors take some considerable risk with new planting schemes, given the time consuming and expensive process for gaining approval to plant, and with no guarantee of the outcome, but with significant potential rewards. To deliver the ambitious targets for increasing woodland cover in the UK Governments need to demonstrate their firm commitment that they are serious about the delivery. The Scottish Government is

doing this, with the Minister for Rural Economy and Connectivity in particular, driving the agenda forward..

In Scotland, where the majority of the interest lies, the Mackinnon Report reviewed the forestry planting approval procedures in 2016 with a view to reducing the complexity, duration and cost of tree planting applications. This was well received, but little change has yet been seen in the application process to date with project deadlines due by the end of this year. When there is a cultural shift to more streamlined decision making, the forest industry will be enabled to deliver. Tilhill Forestry were the largest single deliverer of the overall 3,200 ha total of new conifer planting in Scotland last year. This represented over 90% of new conifer planting in the whole of the UK.

(Source: UK Forest Market Report 2017 – John Clegg & Co / Tilhill Forestry)

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SWEDISH FORESTRY SOCIETY

(Föreningen Skogen)



Roots in devastated forests

In the 1880:s large parts of the Swedish forests were ravaged by the industry and by common people. The hunt for export logs as well as housing timber and fuelwood had left sad rests of forests in large areas.

The country was one of the poorest in Europe, so there was a weak interest in reforestation. As in several poor countries today it was hard for small scale land owners – who owned half of the Swedish forest land – to invest in reforestation, waiting for decades to get return on the investment.

Therefore engaged people – foresters, industrialists and others – chose an idealistic and voluntary approach to promoting silviculture and sustainable forest management, rather than legislation. Therefore a nonprofit nongovernmental organization was started in 1882. This is the Swedish Forestry Association, in Swedish: Föreningen Skogen.

So the association spread the ideas of sustainable management. Initially mainly reforestation was in focus – educating farmers, promoting collection of seeds and encouraging school classes having planting days. Awards for stopping forest fires were admitted and booklets on silviculture were distributed. Getting back more productive forests was in focus but the Forestry Association also paid interest in wild game, birdlife and rare species.

At this time there were few and weak forestry institutions. The association was therefore a meeting place for policymaking, science, education and exchange of practical experience between practitioners.

Late in the 19th century the Minister of Agriculture was chairing the Board and the association devoted many meetings to forest policy. This had a great part in the fact that the government already in 1903 launched the first National Forestry Act, among other things demanding reforestation after cutting forests.



■ Fall excursion 1916

Along the road new activities for promoting good forest management were developed. Among the activities, still running, the annual Fall Excursion was started in 1903, the forestry journal “Skogen” in 1914 and the Forest Week in 1917.

Over the 20th century new forestry institutions were founded, like the authority the Forest Agency, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Forest Owners associations. The Swedish Forestry Association today singles out as a nonprofit actor in forestry. This underlines the fact that forestry is not only about business and supporting the industry, but a multifunctional

asset for all individuals and all society. Nonetheless helping people in forestry developing the forest management remains in focus.

Sweden’s most enthusiastic forestry people

We do not hesitate to say that the members in the Swedish Forestry Association are the 8000 most engaged and enthusiastic forestry people in the country.

The typical member of the Swedish Forestry Association is a 60-year-old male with a private holding of some 100 hectares of forest who goes “all in” for his forest.

Swedish forest owners are dominated by men, they constitute slightly over 60 percent of the owners, representing even more of the family forest owners as their properties in average are larger than those of women. Even among foresters, men are overrepresented. Obviously even very active women also are amongst the members, but our society – as well as the forestry community at large – has an important mission to create a situation where women are equally attracted to the forest.

The 8000 members also cover a large part of the people employed in forestry: contractors, forest workers, foresters, scientists and many others. The association has kept its strength for over 100 years by being the meeting point for professionals as well as private forest owners.

It may be emphasized that Sweden, with only one percent of the global forests, is a mayor player on the international forest trade. Therefore the general interest in the forest is high. The

country is the third largest exporter of softwood, only Canada and Russia being larger. 80 percent of the land is forest and as much as 50 percent is in the hand of family forest owners, their forest properties averaging about 50 hectares (median being 23 hectares.)

Studies of the members tell us:

- ❧ What they like most about the membership is our journal as well as other channels of information about forestry.
- ❧ They also very much appreciate that we are working generally for better managed forests, that we award outstanding efforts and spread knowledge about forestry to the public.
- ❧ The members also want us to meet general criticism pointed at forestry, defend legal rights as a mean to encourage good management and promote profitability.

The Swedish Forestry Association has always been a fairly centralized organization. We have no local branches even though members throughout the country are actively engaged when we have local events, particularly excursions, but also at fairs etc.

Excursions, communication and trade literature

136 years after the founding of The Swedish Forestry Association we basically have the same mission and methods as we had back then. The aim is still to encourage sustainable forestry and to be a meeting place for people with love for silviculture and multiple use forestry.



■ Kings award

To do that we still gather foresters and family forest owners to exchange experiences and opinions at excursions. Apart from several small excursions on any subject from moose damage control and foreign tree species to forest history and forest policy we have the mayor Fall Excursion that gathers leading decision-makers.

Frequently MP:s of all political parties are represented at the Fall Excursion and this is a part of the associations effort to promote sound forest policies. Another is the Forest Day at the Parliament where politicians meet the forestry community.



Photo: Björn Svensson

Highlighting good examples is another mean of promoting sustainable forestry. The awards we give to those who make outstanding achievements are handed to them by the King of Sweden who is patron of the association.

Since 1914 we publish the monthly journal of forestry, *Skogen* (The Forest), that particularly focuses on forest management, technology and the wood market. Still printed trade literature is important to our members even though the internet obviously grows more important every day.

Three employees of the association are dedicated to communication with the general public and particularly with schools. The base of the former is a web platform where we show 7000 Q:s and A:s with questions from the public. The web also publishes comprehensive facts on forestry and daily news monitoring. It had over one million visitors in 2017.

The base of the communication with the schools are the School Forests, forests close to schools where the teachers can “move the classroom” out into the open. Forests are perfect locations for teaching anything from math and biology to language and social science.

We also work to some extent on an international level. In the early 1990:s we took the initiative to the European Forestry Network where forestry societies still meet almost annually.

■ School class in the woods



Photo: Bengt Ek

■ Celebrating International Day of Forests

During the last years we have put more emphasis on public relations and a constructive political debate. It turns out that policymakers greatly appreciate the fact that forest policymaking and debate is not a place where purely commercial interests meet purely idealistic ENGO-interest. The long term nature of forestry also has an obvious idealistic side, benefitting all aspects of society.

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