

New chair of SNS

Lisa Sennerby-Forsse has been appointed the new chairperson of SNS, the Nordic Forestry Research Co-operation Committee.

Lisa is currently an Adjunct Professor at the Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences and holds a position as research manager at SkogForsk, the Forestry Research Institute of Sweden. She is primarily responsible for research concerning silviculture and environmental issues.

In June 2000, however, she will change job, and become head of the Natural Resources Department of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

Several important positions

Lisa Sennerby-Forsse holds important positions in a number of Swedish and international organisations. She is:

- Chairman of the Program for Forest and Wood Products at The Swedish Agricultural Research Council
- Member of the National Board of Forestry
- Member of the Norwegian Research Council's Forest committee



- Coordinator of IUFRO's Division 1, Silviculture
- Member of IUFRO's executive board.

What are your goals for SNS?

"The SNS's board is working on a strategic plan right now. Hence, I think it is too early to make a statement concerning our aims for SNS".

"But of course I have a strong belief in Nordic co-operation. Our countries

are small, and so are our forest research budgets. If we are to maintain international competitiveness in the future, we must co-ordinate our resources. And this is an important task for SNS: not only to support researchers financially, but also in facilitating meetings between researchers in the region".

"Cooperation in education programmes for forest students in the Nordic countries is also important".

"One thing we will give priority to in the next few years is improving our links with forest researchers from the Baltic countries and western Russia. We have a lot to learn from each other. And, it should not be forgotten that a substantial part of the wood supplied to the Nordic paper and pulp mills comes from this region today. The commercial connections are already in place".

"Another thing we will target is the EU. We will improve our channels of communication with Brussels, and promote forest research programmes so that they get a "fair share" of the total research resources".

Forest glossary on the Net

Do you know the French word for "single-grip harvester? Or the German? ELMIA Wood, the world's largest forestry fair, has launched a "forest dictionary" on their web-site. Here you will find translated 1,200 of the forestry world's expressions. You can go to and from seven languages: Swedish, English, German, French, Finnish, Spanish and Latin.

The URL for the dictionary is:
www.tra.elmia.se/eng/



From the dictionary:

- *single grip harvester* (English)
- *eingriff-Vollernter* (German)
- *procesadora de una toma* (Spanish)
- *combiné d'exploitation avec une seule pince* (French)
- *yksioteharvesteri* (Finnish)
- *engreppsskördare* (Swedish)

Nordic Forest History Network

Forest History was the topic of a recent two-day Nordic conference in Sweden. The conference was sponsored by SNS, the Nordic Forest Research Co-operation committee.

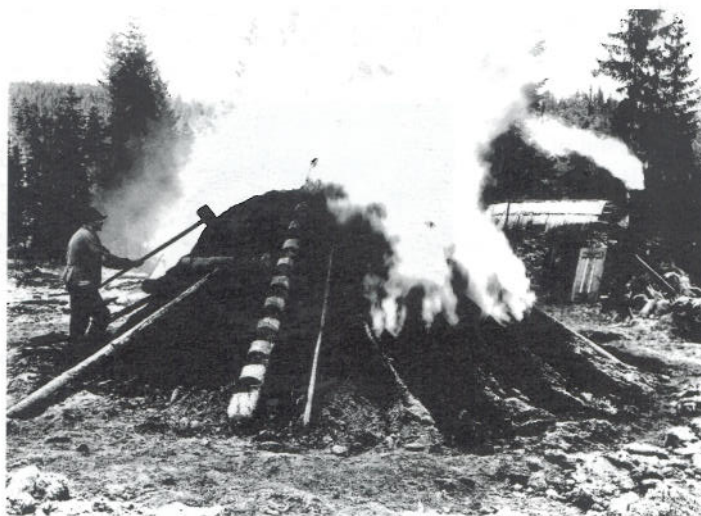
During one of the sessions, researchers from the Nordic countries presented ongoing projects. The list was longer than the participants anticipated - and the links between some of the projects were obvious.

Hence, closer, networked Nordic co-operation was proposed. The researchers who will be linking their activities decided to make a list of personnel, ongoing projects and publications available. All of this will be published on the Internet. The URL is www.skogshistoria.nu/network. You can also find information about the participants at this site, and how to get further details concerning the research groups involved.

Summaries of some of the papers presented at the conference:

Regulated forestry limits ecological stability

Em. Prof. Matti Leikola, Finland, opened the conference with a paper describing how politics, economics and technology have affected silviculture in the Nordic forests. There is a strong tradition of strict



A hundred years ago thousands and thousands of charcoal stacks were burned each year in the Nordic forests
Photo: Silvanum

governmental regulation of forestry in the Nordic countries, he said. The aim has been to promote high timber productivity. This has been successful, but now we can see that other important objectives for forestry have been neglected. Prof. Bo Larsen, Denmark, agreed and stressed that excessively strict regulation of forestry leads to forests which are less ecologically stable than forests managed in a more "natural" way.

Swedish forestry legislation

Em Prof. Per Stjernquist, Sweden, continued with an exposition of Swedish forestry legislation. In the beginning, the politicians saw the forests as an agricultural resource, providing useful additional income for farmers. Later on the view shifted, and the forests came to be regarded as a part of the forest industry. The legislation has often changed rapidly—usually with poor results, he said.

The 1900-century lumberjack was more of a contractor than an employee.
Photo: Silvanum

Handicraft

Jon Bojer Godal, an advisor from Norway, talked about ancient wood technology, describing key features of the production processes, technical requirements and design involved. This handicraft, he said, was based on tradition and sound knowledge of wood's properties. Commenting on this, Prof. Martin Wiklund, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden, said that old handicraft knowledge is still relevant to modern wood technology.

Old time lumberjacks were contractors

Ella Johansson presented a paper about forestry work in earlier days, based on her studies of the period 1860 to 1940. The people working in the Swedish forests were more like contractors than employees. They planned their own operations. The forest product companies did not have to bother about harvesting or transportation, since the forest workers were entirely responsible for these activities. To illustrate these relationships, wages were not discussed in the forest, but prices per delivered unit.



Joint recommendation:**“Demand a dissemination plan”**

“The funding bodies should always insist that a dissemination plan is presented before supporting a new research project”. This joint recommendation was given by a group of forest research information experts at a seminar held in Finland in May 2000.

A number of arguments for more efficient dissemination of new research results were given, e.g:

- To speed the application of new findings and thus improve forestry practice, by using more profitable technology and methods, with greater environmental awareness etc.
- To enhance the practicality of the research, by considering the customer's perspective

A task group is to formulate the recommendations in more detail, and distribute them to funding bodies in the Nordic countries.

The seminar was sponsored by SNS, the Nordic Forestry Research Co-operation Committee. The objective was to promote closer co-operation between information specialists in the Nordic countries. Latvia, Estonia and Ireland were also represented.



The organizers of the seminar: Lotta Möller and Ingemar Nordansjö, Sweden, Ellen Juel Christensen, Denmark, Severin Woxholt, Norway and Raili Voipio, Finland.

95% of press releases end up in the wastebasket

One generally appreciated item on the seminar program, was a visit to the offices of *Helsingin Sanomat*, the biggest-selling newspaper in Finland. It is published in Finnish, and the daily average circulation was 454,700 copies in the first half of the year 1999.

The editorial office is located in a very new and stylish building in the middle of Helsinki. Its nearest neighbour is the Finnish Parliament (of course raising questions about whether the newspaper watches over the government, or if the opposite is closer to the truth!).

A representative from the paper's business editorial office hosted the group's visit and described the journalists' daily work in the middle of the flow of news.

“You have 15 seconds to catch our interest. If you fail, your press release will inevitably end up in the wastebasket”.

In the following discussion, it was stressed that research information often has good news value. It can, among other things, boost the often poor supply of “good news”, since researchers do not only talk about problems; they also discuss ways to reduce them.

New pest threatens European pine forests

The pine nematode *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* is a new threat for European pine forests. The nematode originates from America and has become a significant pest in Japan.

The nematode is approx. 1 mm long and lives inside the trees, where it spreads through the resin canals. Three to four weeks after infection, the tree's transpiration rate declines, and the needles turn yellow. A short time later, the tree is often dead.

Sawyer beetles are the main vector

for the nematode, spreading it from tree to tree.

The pine nematode was found for the first time in the EU last summer, in Portugal. The Portuguese government has initiated a campaign to get rid of the pest, involving destruction of infected wood, and isolation of affected areas.

Scientists say that the nematode could become a real threat to European forests, especially in southern Europe, but also in Nordic forests.

Finland and Sweden have started a control program, in which imported wood is to be regularly inspected.

Source: Norsk Skogbruk 3/2000.

*Sawyer beetle.
Vector for
the pine
nematode.*

Photo: R
Axelsson



Prognosis for Swedish Forestry

We can increase the potential cut, and improve the environment

"If we maintain the silviculture practised in the 1990s, the potential cut in the Swedish forests may increase substantially in the next hundred years. At the same time, the forest will have a positive influence on a range of beneficial environmental factors, increasing the amounts of old forest, broad-leaved trees and biodiversity, for instance".

This heartening forecast is given in an outcome analysis, recently published by the National Board of Forestry.

The analysis describes eleven different scenarios, with varying assumptions regarding silviculture, environmental efforts and cutting levels.

During the next hundred years, it is envisaged that

- Forest productivity will increase from today's 96.5 million m³ to 107–116 million m³ per year
- The highest sustainable cutting level will rise to 82–104 million m³ per year: 25–50% more than today
- The standing volume will increase from today's 2,800 million m³ to between 3,200 and 3,400 million m³ by the year 2100.
- The proportion of broad-leaved trees rises in most of the scenarios.



The productivity in the Swedish forests will increase from today's 96.5 million to 107–116 million m³ in the next hundred years

In the "forestry practice of the 1990s" scenario, for instance, the broad-leaved share goes up from today's 16% to 25% by the year 2100.

- The harvest of biofuel from branches and tops may double.
- The potential annual thinning area increases to 450,000–500,000 hectares from today's 300,000 hectares
- The share of "old forest" rises from today's 4.5% to 7.5–10.5%, depending on the scenario chosen. Old forest is defined as stands older than 120 years in southern Sweden and older than 140 years in central and northern Sweden.

"The positive picture of Swedish forestry given in the analysis, is a result of efforts made by earlier generations of forest owners", says Maria Norrfalk, General Director of the National Board of Forestry.

"If we maintain good forest practice, we can both increase the yield and promote biodiversity".

"But to achieve the objectives laid out in Swedish forest policy, we must have better regeneration than we do today, and also increase pre-commercial thinnings", says Maria Norrfalk.

Source: National Board of Forestry, Sweden

Norway: Cutbacks at NISK

NISK, the Norwegian Forest Research Institute, is struggling with financial problems. The preliminary budget for 2000 shows a deficit of Nkr 4.7 million, on a total turnover of Nkr 75 million.

The institute's board has launched a plan to reduce wage costs by some

Nkr 6 million. The board has emphasised, however, that reductions must be implemented in a way that does not threaten the institute's effectiveness.

Besides the cutbacks in staff, the institute will increase its efforts to find

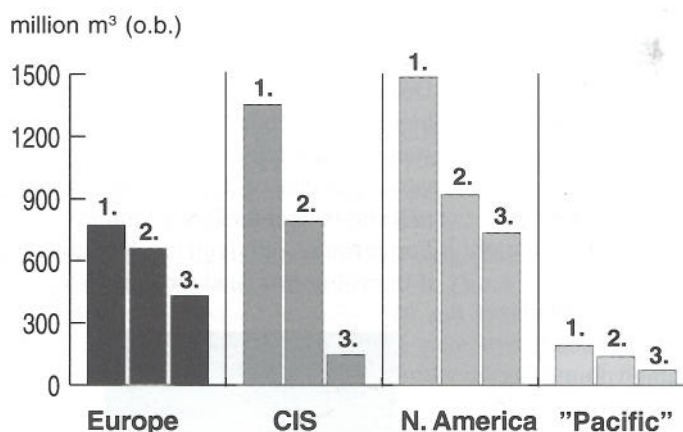
new commission-financed research projects.

Currently, the institute has a staff of 153 people.

Source: Norsk Skogbruk 3/2000.

The Forest Area Is Expanding in Industrialised Countries of the Temperate and Boreal Region

The area of forest and "other wooded land" in temperate and boreal industrialized countries is expanding at the rate of 1.95 million hectares per year. This is one of the findings presented in the Temperate and Boreal Forest Resources Assessment (TBFRA-2000), part of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000, soon to be published by the Timber Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.



1. Total net annual increment

2. Total net annual increment on forest land available for wood supply

3. Total annual fellings on forest land available for wood supply

CIS = Russia and a number of countries in Western and Central Asia

"Pacific" = Australia, New Zealand and Japan

Only 55% of the annual increment is felled

55 countries covered

The report "Forest Resources of Europe, CIS, North America, Australia, Japan and New Zealand" presents the most recent, valuable and comprehensive information ever gathered on the forest resources of the 55 countries included in the above areas, and it covers practically all aspects of the temperate and boreal forest.

The TBFRA project is a joint effort between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)'s Timber Committee and the FAO's European Forestry Commission.

Over 2,500 million hectares in total

Temperate and boreal regions comprise 1,700 million hectares of forest, 800 million hectares of "other wooded land" and 62 million hectares of plantations.

Undisturbed by humans

Some 925 million hectares of temperate and boreal forests, mostly in Canada and Russia, are classified as forests "undisturbed by humans".

Expanding area

The area of forest and other wooded land in temperate and boreal industrialized countries is expanding at the rate of 1.95 million hectares per year.

Growing stock

The area has 188,000 million m³ of growing stock, an average of 112 m³ per hectare. The net annual increment is 3,800 million m³/year, of which 2,500 million m³ on forest available for wood supply. Yet only 55 % of the annual increment (1,400 million m³) is felled.

Co-ordinated by the FAO

The forest assessment programme has already entailed an immense team effort involving co-operation between hundreds of people, co-ordinated by

the ECE/FAO secretariat in Geneva. Close co-operation with official bodies in the countries concerned, at all stages of the project (and the leadership of an ECE/FAO Team of Specialists), has been essential to its success.

The next phase of the assessment has already been started. The ECE/FAO Specialists are meeting on 21-22 May 2000 in Joensuu, at the premises of the **European Forest Institute**, to assess the progress made so far and to discuss the next steps. These will include entering the statistics gathered so far on the temperate and boreal forest resources into a database, which will be fully integrated into a global database. The data will also be published in electronic form (on CDs and the Internet).

Source: The Timber Committee Web site
www.unece.org/trade/timber

New figures show:

Everything's growing in Norwegian forests

The forest area is increasing. So is the standing volume, the area of old forest, the volume of broad-leaved trees and the volume of dead wood and windfalls.

This is the positive picture being painted by the "Norwegian Institute of Land and Inventory".

The results from their latest land survey have just been published. Since 1925, the standing volume has more than doubled, from 310 million m³ to 645 million m³ in 1996.

Since 1990, the volume has increased by 67 million m³.

Less Norway spruce

Also, the proportion of Norway spruce is diminishing. Some 30 years ago it stood at slightly over 50%. Today it is down to approx. 45%. Meanwhile, pine and broad-leaved trees have increased their "market share".

Dead wood

Dead wood is considered important for biodiversity. Today, the volume of standing and lying dead trees in varying stages of decay is equivalent to some 10% of the living volume. Furthermore, although it is hard to tell if the volume of dead wood is

increasing or not, the volume of "recently dead needle-trees" has certainly increased significantly.

Source: Norsk Skogbruk 2/2000



Finland: Forest education "on the move"

At the end of the year 2000, the forest education section at Helsinki University will leave its current premises in central Helsinki for a new office in Vik, about 10 kilometres north-east of the city.

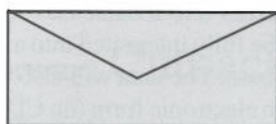
Vik has one of the biggest "life-science-campus" in Europe, catering

for disciplines such as agriculture, veterinary medicine, pharmacology, microbiology, etc., which are now to be complemented with the addition of forestry.

The forest education section is a part of the Agricultural faculty, and is divided into three departments:

ecology, economics and technology. The total number of staff now moving to Vik comes to some 150 people.

Letters to the editors

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- short
- relevant to the Journal
- interesting for the readers.

Examples: comments on papers published in the Journal, views on ongoing research, trends in research policy, opinion about forestry practice etc.

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