

# The Second Northern European Interregional Summit of Forestry Students

The Second Northern European Interregional Summit of the International Forestry Students' Association was held in Estonia on April 10-15, 2003. Students from Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and Estonia gathered together to talk about the topic "Forest as a Source of Miscellaneous Benefits" and to enjoy the Estonian nature and forests.

The International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) is a worldwide organization bringing together forestry students from all over the world in a wide spectrum of activities. The primary goal of IFSA is to enrich forestry students, formal education, especially in terms of a wider, more global perspective through extracurricular activities and the exchange of information and experience. IFSA promotes co-operation among forestry students, and forges links with other international organizations in areas such as forestry, environmental protection, higher education, economy and social development.

During the International Forestry Students Symposium 2001 in Czech Republic, students from the Nordic and Baltic countries planned an event called the Northern European Interregional Summit (NEIS), which has later become an IFSA tradition. NEIS is an example of an interregional meeting of forestry students. The idea is to share silvicultural knowledge between countries that have geographical, climatic and

botanical resemblance. It is also interesting and beneficial to learn about the situation of forestry in the neighbouring countries. The first NEIS was hosted by the Helsinki students in Finland in 2002. The topic was "The economic future of forestry in the Baltic Sea region". In 2003, the students from Tartu, Estonia, hosted the second NEIS. The program consisted of presentations about the topic from each participating country, interesting lectures and excursions. Participants learned about hunting, timber- and non-timber values, forest law and certification, protected areas and problems in forestry in respective countries.

During five days participants saw parts of the old Tallinn, spent a night at Luua Forestry College, had a tour around the Estonian Agricultural University in Tartu, spent two nights in the forestry students' training and experimental centre at Järvselja, and visited an old oil-shale mine, just to mention some highlights of the programme.

There were many willing to host the NEIS 2004 but the honour was decided to give to the forestry students from Umeå, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

**Aiki Aavik**  
Estonian Forestry Students' Association