

Researchers of urban forestry from Nordic and Baltic countries met in Tallinn

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Researchers from five Nordic countries (Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Island) and three Baltic countries discussed on urban forestry and urban trees in Tallinn, December 1-3, 1997. There were 19 participants from 9 research institute, 7 universities, Tallinn Botanic Garden of Tallinn Municipality and Planning Board of Pärnu Municipality on the workshop. The workshop was financed by the Nordic Forest Research Cooperation Committee, and the main organizer was a researcher of Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute Dr. Thomas B. Randrup.

The host of the workshop in Tallinn was Tallinn Botanic Garden and the organizer was H. Sander.

What is urban forestry, why was the workshop held in Tallinn and which were the subjects dealt with?

Urban forestry is an interdisciplinary branch of science coming from USA dealing with urban forests and urban trees, including forest management as well as forest planning, usage, social value, condition of forests and urban trees. The theory of forestry, biology, ecology and also maybe sociology and economy is used here.

There are several reasons for holding this meeting in Tallinn. The researchers of Tallinn Botanic Garden

have good contacts with Danish researchers, especially with the respective working group of Department of Park and Landscape of Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute. The high level of the investigation on urban forestry and urban trees in Estonia had also an important part. It can be even mentioned that Tallinn is one of the best investigated towns in Europe. The nature of Tallinn has been studied from several aspects and most the studies have also been published.

Quite a broad circle of subjects both from geographical and special aspects was discussed on the workshop. The forestry and trees of Kaunas, Riga, Tallinn, Copenhagen and other towns were dealt with, including condition, development, estimation, fragmentation and species composition of urban forests, urban soils, planning and several other questions.

Urban forestry is the only subject of forestry where co-operative contacts between Nordic and Baltic countries have been concluded.

All the participants agreed to continue the co-operation. The form of the co-operation will become evident in the future.

Received 4 May 1998