

## Swedish Forest History Society Annual Report 2020

The **Swedish Forest History Society** is a non-profit association, which works to ensure that forest historical values are appreciated, preserved and utilized, and promotes forest history research and knowledge dissemination. The society was formed in 1990 with the ambition of being a gathering point for people with an interest in forest and cultural history.

TO PROMOTE ITS PURPOSE, the Swedish Forest History Society organizes excursions, seminars and trips, publishes a magazine and a yearbook, bestows awards, and conducts other activities compatible with the Society's purpose.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS HELD 11 MEETINGS DURING THE FISCAL YEAR. All by phone. Due to the worldwide corona pandemic, pretty much everything planned for this anniversary year had to be canceled.

For the society's 30-year anniversary, the plan was to mark this with a special three-day program in Stockholm at the end of March with Royal Academy of Forestry and Agriculture as a venue. The only thing that could be done was a formal annual general meeting by telephone with about 20 participants.

THE ONLY EXCURSION that was deemed to be possible considering corona safety was in Björnlandets National [Bear] Park in southeastern Lapland in mid-August. About twenty participants were able to experience professionally guided visit in an almost untouched wilderness environment.

MEMBER MAGAZINE Skogshistoriska Tidender [Forest History Chronicles] has, as usual, published four issues. The yearbook, with the theme and title "The Forest in Literature", was published in conjunction with Tidender [Chronicles] no. 4.

In the early summer, the board decided to produce a publication based on forester Bengt Andersson's Dalarna University degree thesis project from 1987. The publication, entitled Gott Virke [Good Wood], conveys knowledge of how wood was used in the past. It was sent out to all members with Tidender no. 3 as a small compensation for all canceled excursions.

The society's website ( [www.skogshistoria.se](http://www.skogshistoria.se) ) had 15,000 visits and 11,300 unique users during the year. Most well-attended are the Forest History sections and Association Activities. The article archive that was launched in 2018 is also well visited. Here are now about 270 articles from all the society's yearbooks. During the year, a project was initiated for an archive also for articles from Tidender [Chronicles]. This is expected to be available in 2021. The website was moved to a new web host during the autumn due to a company acquisition. The move has caused major problems with functionality and speed for the site, and work has continued during the autumn to correct the problems, which still partially remained at the turn of the year 2020-2021.

THE FOREST HISTORY SOCIETY has instituted the Örtugen award [named after a Swedish medieval currency unit], which is presented annually to support and stimulate those - amateurs or professionals - who work with forest history research in various ways. The prize consists of a diploma and a sum of money of SEK 5,000 [Cdn \$728]. Two awards, Nos. 56 and 57 respectively, were distributed. Örtug no. 56 was awarded to Sivert Norén for the book "The Development of Forestry During the 20th Century - From Ax to Full Mechanization". Örtug nr 57 was awarded to Linda Norén for her degree project of 30 higher education credits within the Forester's program at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, "It Was an Adventure - A Study of the Life of a Log Driver on the Piteälven [Piteå River]".

THE REGIONAL NETWORK with currently 15 contact persons is located all over the country and fulfills an important function in disseminating information about our activities and collecting ideas. During the autumn, a video conference was arranged with the contact persons in order to capture and discuss possible future excursion and article suggestions. The form of the meeting offered more flavour.

OTHER. The Swedish Forest History Society is involved in the Museum Network Forest & Wood, which brings together forest history-oriented museums around the country. Together, we work to ensure that the forest's cultural heritage is preserved, utilized and developed in a better way than is the case today. We have continued the work with the publication "When the Forest Made Sweden Rich". During the year, the Swedish Forest History Society contributed to a brochure and informed about the museums via social media before and during the summer season. This year's network meeting was conducted digitally without our participation. On a Nordic basis, the society has a certain amount of cooperation and exchange of ideas and experiences.

FINANCE. Amounts in SEK (last year's figures in parentheses). The financial result for the year was 34,416 [\$5010] (-69,133), which meant that equity increased to 455,874 [\$66,355] (421,458).

Total revenues amounted to 697,988 [\$101,595] (681,529). Membership fees increased by just over 3% to 407,000 [\$59,240] (393,297) and sales of advertisements generated 112,500 [\$16,375] (119,500) despite a declining advertising market.

The National Heritage Board gave, as in the previous year, a grant of 70,000 SEK [\$10,189] and from the Rundvirkesstiftelsen [a fund to support activities benefiting small scale forestry, administered by the National Board of Forestry] a grant of 80,000 SEK [\$11,644] was received for the investment in the book *Gott Virke* [Good Wood].

Book sales yielded 9,016 SEK [\$1,312] (17,452), voluntary contributions from members 16,472 SEK [\$2,398] (9,380) and excursions 3,000 SEK [\$437] (71,900).

The total costs for the year amounted to 664,868 [\$96,775] (751,394). The costs for board meetings amounted to 8,685 [\$1,264] (46,460), a decrease due to the possibility of free digital meetings. Fees to secretaries and treasurers totaled 75,000 [\$10,917] (93,750).

The cost of the canceled 30th anniversary amounted to 49,463 [\$7,200] and the cost of work with maintenance of the website, including a mandatory change of web host, is estimated to amount to 19,045 [\$2,772] (5,781).

The cost of publishing, production, printing and distribution of Tidender [Chronicles] and Yearbook amounted to a total of 369,380 [\$53,765] (361,122), which is a marginal increase.

The cost of the Good Wood project amounted to 102,675 [\$14,945].

<b>Members</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Honorary members	8	8
Individual members	1,148	1,130
Family members	298	276
Students	9	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,463</b>	<b>1,421</b>

Family membership is counted as two members.

Of a total of 1463 members, 271 (243) were women.

The number of members increased by 42 (99).

February 4, 2021

For the board of the Swedish Forest History Society,

*Hans-Jöran Hildingsson*

*Rose-Marie Högberg*

*Mats Hannerz*