

# Lithuanian Forest Research Institute – 50th Anniversary

## 1950 - 2000



Lithuanian Forest Research Institute in Girionys, Kaunas District, Lithuania

The Lithuanian Forest Research Institute was founded on October 20 1950. The Institute belonged to the system of the Academy of Sciences until April 1 1956, and later to the Ministry of Agriculture, then the Ministry of Forestry and Forest Industry, and since 1966, to the Central Forestry Management Institution of the former USSR. Since 1992, after restoration of the

independence of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Forest Research Institute received a status of the State Institute. Initially the Institute was founded in Kaunas. In 1963 it was moved to the newly constructed building in Girionys, Kaunas District. Large, 130 ha, Girionys Park and Arboretum were established close by the Institute. The number of employees has increased and reached up to



Antanas Kvedaras, the First Director of the Lithuanian Forest Research Institute (1950-1961) signs the Statement of Foundation of the main building of Institute (lying of the Keystone of the main building), on December 17 1960.

217 in 1982. After restoration of the independence of the Republic of Lithuania, because of changes in the directions of scientific activities and financial problems, the number of the permanent staff (including scientists)



Permanent employees of the Lithuanian Forest Research Institute, May 2000.

was reduced twice. Currently there are 80 permanent employees at the Institute. The Senate of the Institute approved the new organizational structure in 1995.

The major objective of the Institute is to develop fundamental and applied research in all areas of forestry including versatile ecological and environmental scientific studies. During the entire 50 year-period, the scientific activities covered studies on forest biology and ecology, forest sites, forest typology, forest hydrology, stand productivity and harvesting methods, forest regeneration, forest tree breeding, genetics, forest economics, forest protection, game management, technologies of forest operations and mechanization. Over 40 international, regional or local scientific conferences and workshops were held at the institute. Over 200 various applied recommendations and suggestions were given. During five decades, over 40 volumes of scientific proceedings, 315 monographs, books and booklets were issued at the Institute. The scientists published over 4,000 papers. The Library of the Institute is the only specialized library in Lithuania having the richest fund of the literature on various questions of forestry.



Moments of the Celebrations of the Lithuanian Forest Research Institute – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: the Jubilee Guns fire in volleys in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Institute

Currently, it holds almost 60 thousands exemplars of publications. The present following research directions were confirmed by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania: 1) studies on biological diversity and sustainability of forest ecosystems; 2) solution of the problems on forest productivity, protection, exploitation and economics; 3) studies on conservation, enrichment and exploitation of forest genetic resources and forest regeneration.

There are five research departments at the Institute such as the Departments of Forest Ecology and Silviculture, the Department of Forest Genetics and Reforestation, the Department of Forest Soils, Typology and Hydrology, the Department of Forest Protection and Game Management, and the Department of Forest Resources and Economics. Currently, the Institute carries out over 50 different research projects including the international programs and projects. The Institute cooperates with numerous Lithuanian and foreign scientific institutions. The Institute had signed the Agreements of Association with the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuanian University of Agriculture. The Institute is an active member of the IUFRO. The agreements of different kinds of collaboration with forest research institutes in Germany, Poland, Sweden, Latvia, Estonia, etc. have been signed and scientific collaboration is going on. The Institute is participating in an international exchange of researchers and teachers. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania has granted the Institute the right to confer degrees of Doctor and Habilitated Doctor in the area of forestry (together with the Lithuanian University of Agriculture) and ecology and environmental sciences (together with Vytautas Magnus University). The Institute has a potential of the highly skilled scientists who may solve present-day problems of the ecosystem-based and sustainable forestry.

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