

Waldwissen is used by 100,000 visitors per month and contains almost 3000 edited and popularized research articles.

## Waldwissen.net – translates research into practice

**All universities and research institutes struggle with the challenge of making research results available to a broader audience. A peer-reviewed article is never the final step. Its content needs to be packaged and presented in a context that will also be useful to practitioners and decision-makers. One successful project to deliver this is [Waldwissen.net](http://Waldwissen.net).**

The information and communication platform Waldwissen.net – in English it translates as “forestknowledge.net” – has currently almost 3,000 articles which describe important and actual topics, covering the fields of techniques and planning, forestry, forest ecology, and learning and teaching.

Waldwissen.net is a website run by forestry experts for forestry experts. This guarantees that the content is reliable, up-to-date and appropriate

for forest practitioners. The website also targets other users, such as decision-makers, environmental experts and educational users.

### Swiss initiative

The website started off as an initiative from the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL). The first prototype went on line in 2003. The experience was positive and, in February 2005,



Waldwissen is used by forest professionals in central Europe. The map shows the location of the editorial offices

a new version was launched. From other countries, three more forest institutes in the German-speaking part of central Europe became involved: the Forest Research Institute of Baden-Württemberg (FVA), the Bavarian Forest Institute (LWF) and the Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW). The former two are in Germany, the third is in Austria. Currently, three more institutes from Germany and one from France (INRA) are partners in the project.

### Well visited

There are about 100,000 visitors per month to the web site, mainly from Germany (53%), Switzerland (23%) and Austria (20%). Readers rate articles highly, and in late 2012, a total of 55,000 ratings had been given by users.



## Multilingual

The majority of the articles are written in German, but at least 10% of them are also translated into English, French and Italian. The content of the website is produced by editorial staff at each of the institutes.

Christian Lackner at BFW in Austria is one of the editors of Waldwissen. He attended a recent meeting for Forest portals in Copenhagen, and described the next steps for waldwissen.net.

– We will improve interactivity, and Waldwissen will also go mobile in the near future.

## Waldwissen.net, its content

The current 2 900 research articles are sorted into four main categories, with subcategories to allow a good overview. The main categories are:

- **Technique and planning** (with inventory, forest technology and natural hazards)
- **Forestry** (with silviculture, forest protection and management)
- **Forest ecology** (forest plants, animals, nature conservation and protective function)
- **Learning and teaching** (public relations, forest history, education and training)

## Dossier

The German version of the platform also presents “Dossiers”, which bring together contributions from various fields to give a broader perspective on a topic. Examples of dossier titles are Douglas fir, forest ash, and urban forestry.

## Prize winner

Waldwissen.net was in 2007 awarded the distinguished Schweighofer Innovation Award for Forestry. “Thanks to its internationality, multilingualism and the professionalism of its contributions waldwissen.net made an especially strong impression.”

## From WALDWISSEN.NET

### Well prepared in a crisis

Crisis communication doesn't happen automatically or incidentally. Most authorities carry out public relations and so have access to qualified staff. However, their work during a crisis can in no way be compared to their day-to-day press and public relations activities. If in normal situations a PR department has to make a concerted effort to bring information to the public's attention, this picture changes abruptly in a crisis. The telephone doesn't stop ringing and media representatives are on site; it's hectic. Preparations that can be made for such situations are presented in the article.

*Read more: [www.waldwissen.net/lernen/oeffentlichkeit/fva\\_krisenkommunikation\\_kk3/index\\_EN](http://www.waldwissen.net/lernen/oeffentlichkeit/fva_krisenkommunikation_kk3/index_EN)*

### Finnish forestry – a role model for Switzerland?

Finland is regarded as a leader in the European forestry and timber industry. One of the factors leading to this success is the close cooperation between research, forestry, forest owners and the timber industry. Swiss forestry and forest research could greatly profit from the expertise of the Finns. A closer cooperation between research and actual practice and also between forestry and the timber industry is especially necessary in order to improve the economics of forestry. The timber production chain must be optimised, the outlets for wood must be improved and the development of innovative products must be encouraged.

*Read more: [www.waldwissen.net/lernen/weltforstwirtschaft/wsl\\_finnland/index\\_EN](http://www.waldwissen.net/lernen/weltforstwirtschaft/wsl_finnland/index_EN)*

### European beech – portrait of a tree species

European beech trees may well reach an age of 300 years and, in rare cases, even 500 years. They can attain a height of over 40 m. Figures from the Austrian Forest Inventory show that the percentage of European beech in industrial timber production is 9.6%. Thus, beech is by far the most important deciduous species in the production forest.

According to the German Federal Forest Inventory 2, the average growing stock per hectare for European beech is 352 m<sup>3</sup>, ranking third behind spruce (404 m<sup>3</sup>/ha) and fir (480 m<sup>3</sup>/ha). The growth performance of European beech reaches up to 70% that of spruce.

*Read more: [www.waldwissen.net/wald/baeume\\_waldpflanzen/laub/bfw\\_buche/index\\_EN](http://www.waldwissen.net/wald/baeume_waldpflanzen/laub/bfw_buche/index_EN)*

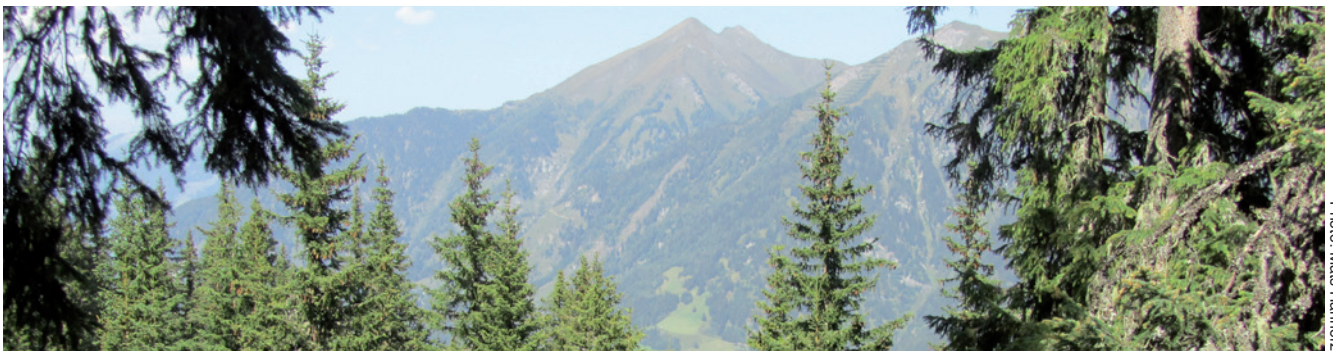


Photo: Matis Hamnerz

## Grants for Nordic forest research networks

The following 11 network activities were granted support from SNS and EFINORD for 2014. One aim of the joint EFINORD-SNS networks is to increase North European regional synergy within forest research by networking and joint utilisation of unique research facilities. Detailed activities and outcomes will be presented on the SNS webpage ([www.nordicforestresearch.org](http://www.nordicforestresearch.org)) and in News & Views.

### SSFE – Scandinavian Society of Forest Economics

The network will hold its biennial scientific conference on 21–24 May 2014 in Uppsala, Sweden. The aim of the conference is to deepen and expand the Nordic and EFINORD forest economics research community.

*Coordinator: Anders Roos, SLU, [anders.roos@slu.se](mailto:anders.roos@slu.se)*

### NEFOM – North European Forest Mycologists

NEFOM strengthens the collaboration between the participating laboratories working on the ecology and molecular ecology of forest fungi. The network arranges PhD courses and will be organising a general scientific meeting, possibly in Iceland. Several cross-laboratory publications are also being produced.

*Coordinator Rasmus Kjølner, University of Copenhagen, [rasmusk@bio.ku.dk](mailto:rasmusk@bio.ku.dk)*

### NOLTFOX – Northern European Database of Long-term Forest Experiments

The NOLTFOX database has now reached a state where the main work is to maintain the database, update it and to develop further its structure and function. Use of the database is steadily increasing. A combined workshop and research meeting will be held in June 2014.

*Coordinator Ólafur Eggertsson, Iceland Forest Service, [olie@skogur.is](mailto:olie@skogur.is)*

### WSE – Northern European Network for Wood Science Engineering

The WSE network will arrange a conference on 13–14 October 2014 in Edinburgh. The theme is "In-service performance of new wood protective systems including wood modifications".

*Coordinator Erik Larnøy, Skog og Landskap, Norway, [erik.larnoy@skogoglandskap.no](mailto:erik.larnoy@skogoglandskap.no)*

### Phytophthora-diseases of forest trees in Northern Europe

A Nordic *Phytophthora* symposium will be held in Malmö, Sweden, in October 2014. The goals are to disseminate results from the latest *Phytophthora*-research to policy makers, relevant public authorities and research financiers; and to identify needs for future research.

*Coordinator Johanna Witzell, SLU, [johanna.witzell@slu.se](mailto:johanna.witzell@slu.se)*

### Nordic Network on Forest Policy Science

The network brings together scientists dealing with forest policy issues from a social scientific perspective. A workshop will be held in Joensuu, Finland, aimed at identifying areas for collaborative research projects.

*Coordinator Daniela Kleinschmit, SLU, [daniela.kleinschmit@slu.se](mailto:daniela.kleinschmit@slu.se)*

### NorForM – Northern Forest Water Mercury Network

In 2014, the network will focus on forestry-mercury issues related to the European Water Framework Directive. A workshop will be held in Norway in April 2014, and a consensus paper will be produced during the year.

*Coordinator Kevin Bishop, SLU, [kevin.bishop@slu.se](mailto:kevin.bishop@slu.se)*

### Ecosystem services from dead wood in Northern Europe

The aim of this new network is to share methodological experiences about measuring and modelling dead wood dynamics. A shared database of dead wood dynamics will be developed. An open workshop on dead wood dynamics, carbon fluxes and the applied use of models will be held in Helsinki, Finland, in April 2014.

*Coordinator: Jogeir Stokland, Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute, [jogeir.stokland@skogoglandskap.no](mailto:jogeir.stokland@skogoglandskap.no)*

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## Joint activities

The following three networks will co-organise the conference "Forest landscape mosaics; disturbance, restoration and management at times of global change" in Estonia in August 2014:

### PRIFOR – Nordic working group on the history of primeval boreal forests

*Coordinator Bengt Gunnar Jonsson, Mid Sweden University, [bengt-gunnar.jonsson@miun.se](mailto:bengt-gunnar.jonsson@miun.se)*

### FORDIS – Natural Disturbance Dynamics Analysis for Ecosystem Based Management

*Coordinator Kalev Jogiste, Estonian University of Life Sciences, [kalev.jogiste@emu.ee](mailto:kalev.jogiste@emu.ee)*

### Continuous forest cover experiments in Northern Europe.

*Coordinator Lars Drössler, SLU, [lars.drossler@slu.se](mailto:lars.drossler@slu.se)*





SNS former chairman Pernille Karlog and secretary Katrine Hahn Kristensen hand over the USB stick containing SNS documents to the new chairman Jan C. Svensson and secretaries Inga Bödeker and Jonas Rönnerberg. Photo: Mats Hannerz

## SNS-Secretariat moves to Sweden

After four years in Denmark, SNS hands over the baton to Sweden. The secretariat and chairman rotate on a four-year cycle between Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

The new chairman is Jan C. Svensson, of The Swedish Research Council Formas.

The secretariat is hosted by SLU, where Inga Bödeker and Jonas

Rönnerberg share the duties. Inga Bödeker works as a postdoctoral researcher on forest soil processes in Alnarp. Jonas Rönnerberg is a researcher and vice-dean for SLU. He has a particular responsibility for SLU's international affairs.

Interviews with the former and current staff will be found in coming issues of News and Views.

### Extra Joint Calls for SNS-NKJ cross-sectorial Networks

## Bioeconomy in Forestry and Agriculture

The aim of the joint call is to promote international cross-sectorial collaboration among researchers and stakeholders from forestry and agriculture by networking activities, creating a platform for communication and assessing

challenges, knowledge gaps and opportunities in the areas of biomass utilisation and land use for production in the scenario of transition to a greater bio-based economy.

Read more on [www.nordicforestresearch.org/calls/networks/](http://www.nordicforestresearch.org/calls/networks/)

## Bioeconomy, climate and social aspects in focus for the new SNS strategy

The SNS strategy plan for 2014–2017 focuses on:

- the role of forests in bioeconomy;
- forests and the climate;
- the social aspects of forestry.

The targets for the period are to:

1. Strengthen research on sustainable forest management, particularly aspects of common Nordic interest.
2. Provide research-based policy advice to promote a sustainable future for the Nordic region's forests.
3. Strengthen the position of Nordic forest research in European and international contexts.
4. Disseminate research results and develop communication activities that increase the interplay between research, industry, and politics.

The Strategy Plan can be downloaded from [www.nordicforestresearch.org/about-sns/sns-strategy-2010-2013/](http://www.nordicforestresearch.org/about-sns/sns-strategy-2010-2013/)

## Annual EFINORD meeting in Umeå

This year's annual meeting of EFI's North European Regional Office, EFINORD, will be held in Umeå, Sweden, the 14–15th of May 2014. The theme will be "Strengthening forest research cooperation in northern Europe". The program includes a scientific block on continuous cover forestry and a field excursion.

Read more on [www.efinord.efi.int](http://www.efinord.efi.int)

## Contact News & Views

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More info about SNS:

[www.nordicforestresearch.org](http://www.nordicforestresearch.org)

News & Views is a newsletter from SNS containing short, popularized articles covering Nordic forest research and forestry. Articles presenting SNS-supported activities are prioritized. The newsletter is published eight times per year, and is available for download from the SNS and Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research websites.



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