

The International Conference BaltDendro

“BaltDendro” (Baltic Dendrochronology) – a platform for regional cooperation among students, scientists and professionals working in different fields of dendro-sciences – dendroarcheology, dendroclimatology and dendroecology was established in 2010. It was created to obtain a better acquaintance and discuss the results obtained in these research fields, as well as to tackle problems and tasks specifically in the Baltic countries, and in order to create a possibility for young, upcoming tree-ring researchers to access this information more easily.

Dendrochronology has old traditions in the Baltic States, going back a half a century. The Laboratory of Dendrochronology established in Kaunas in 1968 was one of the first such facilities in Europe. Therefore, the former Soviet Union tree-ring data bank was established here. So far, a working group of scientists from the Baltic countries has organised two international BaltDendro conferences: first at Kolka, Latvia (BaltDendro 2010), and second in Šventoji, Lithuania, (BaltDendro 2012). The conference at Kolka (25-29 August, 2010) was attended by 18 participants: two from Lithuania, 13 from Latvia and three from Estonia. They represented the University of Latvia, the University of Tartu, the Vytautas Magnus University, the Latvian State Forest Research Institute “Silava”, the Latvia University of Agriculture and the Daugavpils University. Thirteen lectures were presented during the conference, including three on the general topics of dendrochronology, three on dendroarcheology and dating, two on dendroclimatology and five on dendroecology.

The second BaltDendro conference was held from 30 August to 2 September, 2012 in Šventoji. Altogether eighteen participants gathered from Latvia (11 participants), Estonia (four), Lithuania (two), and Belarus (one). The participants represented the Department of Botany and Ecology, Faculty of Biology, University of Latvia; the Institute of Latvian History at the University of Latvia, the Latvian State Forest Research Institute “Silava”; the Department of Forest Management, Institute of Forestry and Rural Engineering, Estonian University of Life Sciences; the Department of Geography, Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu; the Group of Dendroclimatology and Radiometrics, Environmental Research Centre, Faculty of Nature Sciences, Vytautas Magnus University; the National Museum, the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania; the Scientific Research Centre, Institute of Experimental Botany of National Academy of Science of Belarus. Four sessions featured the latest advances of dendrochronology in the Baltic Countries:

Session 1: three presentations on general dendrochronology questions,

Session 2: five lectures on dendroclimatology,

Session 3: four presentations on chronology development and dating,

Session 4: six lectures on dendroecology.

The presentations of Estonian researchers in BaltDendro 2012 included an investigation of thinning and climate effects to the radial increment of Scots pine (M. Hordo and H. Valdaru), a study of effects of thin-



Participants of the International Conference "BaltDendro 2010" during the excursion to the Slītere National Park in Latvia



Participants of the International Conference “BaltDendro 2012” in Šventoji, Lithuania

ning, impact of pine looper moth and climate on the radial growth of Scots pine (M. Pruuli), detecting a climate signal in tree ring widths of pedunculate oak (K. Sohar, A. Läänelaid and D. Eckstein) and dendrochronological dating of a sculpture made of pine (A. Läänelaid, S. van Daalen, M. Zunde, R. Pukienė).

The Latvian researchers presented eight investigations encompassing the major fields of dendrochronology: general problems and tasks of tree-ring research in the Baltic countries (M. Zunde), program R in dendrochronology (D. Elferts), climate reconstruction in Latvia (J. Dzenis, D. Elferts), influence of climatic factors to the radial growth of oak (R. Matisons) and height increment of pine (Ā. Jansons, J. Rieksts-Riekstiņš), dendroarcheology in Jelgava (M. Petrova), spruce forest structure in Reserve "Gruzdovas meži" (L. Robalte).

R. Pukienė and A. Vitas represented Lithuania during both meetings and presented the latest achievements of dendrochronology in Lithuania: TRiDaS dendrochronological data standard (R. Pukienė), the growing rate of trees and its resistance to air pollution and pests (A. Vitas), recent trends of climate change in Lithuania (A. Vitas).

The input of Belarusian researchers at the conference included a study on the dendrochronological zoning of pine stands in Belarus (M. Yermokhin).

More information about the participants in the two conferences and the papers presented is available on the internet websites

<http://dendro.daba.lv/bd2010> and

<http://www.dendrochronology-lt.com/baltdendro2012.html>.

Similarly to the recent European and even to the world dendrochronology conferences (the EuroDendro and the WorldDendro), the speakers at the BaltDendro conferences have mainly addressed the issues relating to dendroecology and dendroclimatology, giving less attention to the dendrochronological dating of historical wood. At the last BaltDendro conference in particular the necessity for a better coordination of dendrochronological research between the Baltic in-

stitutions was emphasised. The influence of the common ecological factors on the radial growth of timber could not only be established more precisely, but also interpreted as objectively as possible. This requires organisation of a closer cooperation in preparing, comparing and analysing dendrochronological data by using a unified, coordinated methodology. It is hoped that preparative work for a dendrochronological study organised in this way, or even the initial results, may be reflected already at the third BaltDendro conference, to be held in Estonia in 2014.

The history of dendrochronology in Lithuania as well as the latest publications are presented at the <http://www.dendrochronology-lt.com> website. A significant part of the publications in dendrochronology published by the Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian authors are presented at the <http://dendro.daba.lv/bd> website. Coordinated work of the Baltic dendrochronologists will continue and new investigations and techniques of tree rings will be discussed in the next BaltDendro conferences.

Adomas Vitas¹, Iluta Dauškane², Didzis Elferts², Alar Läänelaid³, Rūtilė Pukienė^{1,4}, Kristina Sohar³, Māris Zunde⁵ and Agnė Duobinienė⁶

¹*Group of Dendroclimatology and Radiometrics, Environmental Research Centre, Faculty of Nature Sciences, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania;*

²*Department of Botany and Ecology, Faculty of Biology, University of Latvia, Latvia;*

³*Department of Geography, Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Estonia;*

⁴*National Museum, The Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, Scientific Research Centre, Lithuania;*

⁵*Institute of Latvian History at the University of Latvia, Latvia;*

⁶*Institute of Forestry, Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry, Lithuania*

ERRATUM

In the print version of the article "Population and Distribution of Eurasian Beaver (*Castor fiber*), **Baltic Forestry 18(1): 168-175** (Review Paper)," an error occurs in the heading, p. 168-175.

The name of the first author should instead read as follows: **D. Halley et al.**