Hrvatsko šumarsko društvo

170. godina djelovanja
19 ogranaka diljem Hrvatske
oko 3000 članova

Imenik hrvatskih šumara
14 033 osoba
22 246 biografskih činjenica
14 745 bibliografskih jedinica

Šumarski list
140. godina neprekidnog izlazivanja
10 69 svetska na 80 594 stranica
15 532 članaka od 2 710 autora

Digitalna šumarska biblioteka
4 104 naslova knjiga i časopisa
na 26 jezika od 2 757 autora
izdanja od 1732. do danas
Croatian Forestry Society is a professional, non-profit and non-governmental association of engineers and technicians specialized in forestry, wood technology, chemical wood processing and wood distribution, including all the experts working within the scope of forestry or contributing to it.

Croatian Forestry Society is active all over the Republic of Croatia and is acting on all levels of the forestry profession, independent of any territorial, ownership, political or other forms of the organized forestry activity. But when it comes to forests and forestry, or to activities related to forests, Croatian Forestry Society has something to say.

The goal is to assemble the experts in order to promote the forestry engineers’ and technicians’ call, to develop technologies and research, education and life-long learning, to protect the interests of the profession and the membership, which will eventually lead to achieving the optimal economic development, welfare, health, preservation of the environment and a good general quality of life. These goals will be achieved through various and numerous activities of individual members, branches and the headquarters, as well as through domestic and international cooperation.
The roots of the Forestry society are tied to the Forestry department of the Croatian-Slavonian Economic Society, founded in Zagreb in 1841 as a “alliance of those, who wish to improve agriculture and forestry, economic activities and natural sciences“. The Forestry department becomes independent in 1846 as Croatian-Slavonian Forestry Society, which is considered as the beginning of work of the Croatian Forestry Society. By comparison, the first forestry society in Middle Europe was founded in 1839 in Germany, Baden-Württemberg, followed by the Forestry Society in Switzerland in 1843.

In the statutes of the South-Croatian coastal, but also of the midland towns, a lot of space has been devoted to the forest protection and silviculture in the 13th century already. The Forest Order of Maria Theresa, published in Croatian language in 1769, establishment of forest offices in Krasno, Oštarije and Petrova gora, and the organization of forestry service according to the Rulebook from 1839, whereby in four general commandments directors were appointed and in the regiments foresters, were just some of the reasons that forestry experts educated abroad (Mariabrunn, Banska Štiavnica) started to appear in Croatia. Among the most prominent were Josip Ettinger, Ante Tomić, Franjo Šporer, Mijo Vrbanić and Dragutin Kos. The activities of the Forestry Society are primarily based on improving the forestry sector in Croatia and on supporting the interests of its members through organization of lectures, study trips, exhibitions, projects, expertise, opinion making in the field of forestry and hunting management.
Introduction of legislation in the forestry profession has initiated the need for trained professional staff and the establishment of forestry education. Educational forestry activity begins with the ancient and unrealized proposal of F. Šporer from 1843 about the need of establishing a forestry school. Finally, the commitment of the members of the Forestry Society bore fruit in 1860, with the establishment of the Economy and Forestry School in Križevci.
The need to publish a professional journal was felt shortly after founding of the Croatian-Slavonian Forestry Society, so the first forestry yearbook named “Labours” was released in 1847, then in 1851 and again in 1852. But the written patriotic words on forestry weren’t well received by the foreign rule, so this activity dies off during the period of Bach’s absolutism. Only in 1871 new activities on preparation of the professional forestry journal begin again, especially after the assembly of the Croatian-Slavonian Forestry Society in 1876, when the work of the Society becomes much more intense. During 1876 the preparations were carried out, and on the January 1st 1877 the first issue of the Forestry Journal was printed out. During 130 years of continuous publishing and conducting of its professional and scientific forestry activities, in all the historical and political periods of time that Croatia has undergone till this day, the Forestry Journal remains an indelible chronicle of the Croatian forestry.

From the first double issue in 2008, the Thomson Scientific from Philadelphia, USA, enlisted the Forestry Journal among journals of the highest scientific category. It is indexed and abstracted in the Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as Sci Search) and the Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition. By publishing the articles in the Forestry Journal, scientists get the maximum number of points required for their progression.
The editors were prominent foresters like:


An interesting fact is that prof. Prpić has been the editor-in-chief of Forestry Journal for more than 40 years.

The current editor-in-chief is Ph.D. Josip Margaletić, professor at the Forestry Faculty of Zagreb University.
The foresters’ dream to own a home of their own started being realized with the acception of Maks Prokić’s proposal, given at the society assembly in Osijek in 1889 “that the Croatian-Slavonian Forestry Society should build its home in the capital city of Zagreb”. The starting capital for the construction of the Forestry home was collected through the sale of the exhibits on the Millennium exhibition in Budapest. The City Council of Zagreb awarded a free construction site under the condition that the building houses a forestry museum. Beside the own financial means and those collected in form of donations, in order to close the funding construction amounting to some 110.000 forints, a credit amounting to 70.000 forints was taken from the Property Community of Brod. On the October 20th 1898 the building of the Forester’s home was ceremonially opened. It housed the rooms of Croatian-Slavonian Forestry Society, Forestry Academy, Forestry Museum and the Croatian Association for Hunting and Fishing.
Ever since then the Forester’s home represents a hearth around which the whole Croatian forestry profession is gathering. It is also a source of income for the Forestry Society, as it rents the rooms, providing income for its activities and the salaries of its employees.

The Forestry Academy had also been active in this building. It was founded in 1898 and it was the fourth higher educational institute of the University of Zagreb (next to the Faculty of the Philosophy). It was organized through three-year, and from 1908-1919 through quadrennial studies. In 1919 the Academy ceases to exist and the Agricultural-Forestry Faculty of the University of Zagreb is founded, operating in the building until 1948, when it moves to its present location.

In 1996, on the initiative of its chairman Slavko Matić, the Croatian Forestry Society founded the Academy of Forestry Sciences, where scientists are joining up voluntarily in order to promote the forestry science, meet and encourage the cooperation of various forestry related science branches (disciplines), all with the goal of support the economic development of Croatia.

Today 30 members and 20 associates are active within the Academy.
The forestry society has been active in at least five states and several social systems, so it is not surprising that during its existence it has changed many names. Nevertheless, it has always remained “foresters”:

- Department for forestry of the Economy Society for Croatia and Slavonia, since 1846 to 1851
- Association of foresters in Croatia and Slavonia, since 1851 to 1876
- Croatian-Slavonian Forestry Society, since 1876 to 1919
- Croatian Forestry Society, since 1919 to 1921
- Yugoslav Forestry Association, since 1922 to 1939
- Croatian Forestry Society, since 1939 to 1945
- Forestry Department of the Association of engineers and technicians of FNRJ, since 1945 to 1946
- Forestry Department of the Association of engineers and technicians of Croatia, since 1947 to 1948
- Department of forestry and wood industry of the Association of engineers and technicians, since 1949 to 1950
- Forestry Society of NR Croatia, since 1950 to 1960
- Association of forestry societies of NR Croatia, since 1961 to 1965
- Association of engineers and technicians of forestry and wood industry of Croatia, since 1966 to 1990
- Croatian Forestry Society, since 1991 till today.
Forestry Society is governed by the Steering Board, but the significance of the Society in its environment is mostly reflected in the person of its Chairman. This position has been held first by the doyens of our forestry, the ones who had started it in the first place, and then founded the Croatian-Slavonian Forestry Society in 1876. They were followed by the noble forest-owners, land gentry and forestry officials at different levels of state administration. But mostly the Chairman position was held by notable Forestry Faculty professors and prominent foresters.

The current, 39th Chairman of the Croatian Forestry Society is **Oliver Vlajnić**, a prominent forestry expert from Karlovac.
According to the Law on Associations from 1997, Forestry Society is today organized as an integral organization – legal entity with more than 3,000 members in 19 affiliated branches (Bjelovar, Buzet, Delnice, Gospić, Karlovac, Koprivnica, Našice, Nova Gradiška, Ogulin, Osijek, Požega, Senj, Sisak, Slavonski Brod, Split, Varaždin, Vinkovci, Virovitica, Zagreb) that are independent in their activities and financial operations.

The bodies of the Croatian Forestry Society are the Assembly, the Supervisory Board consisting of three members, Steering Committee consisting of the presidents of all the branches and presidents of the Departments, a representative of the competent ministry, a representative of the Academy of Forestry Sciences, a representative of the Forestry Faculty, a distinguished expert from the forestry field, and last but not least, Chairman of the Croatian Forestry Society and SC likewise.

The Chairman performs his function on the volunteering basis. Croatian Forestry Society employs a secretary, finance manager, administrator and a cleaner.

Croatian Forestry Society is also active through its departments:

**Pro Silva Croatia** – a member of the European forestry association, Pro Silva Europe, which advocates the natural management of forests on principles of the natural regeneration and sustainability.

**Croatian Association for Biomass** – a member of the European Biomass Association; it advocates the efficient use of forest biomass as an energy source.

**Department for Ecology** – gathers forestry scientists and experts dealing with the environmental issues.
Department for forest protection – deals with the issues of the overall forest protection in Croatia, especially with forest fires.

Department for culture, sport and recreation – gathers foresters and forest friends engaged in the field of literature, visual arts, music and folklore, but also sports recreationists, mountaineers etc.
Though there were times when the professional opinion hasn’t been welcome, numerous symposia, roundtables, study trips and lectures organized by the CFS form a basis of works, decisions, rules and instructions for work in forestry and wood processing industry. The Croatian Forestry Society takes a great credit for the currently highly proclaimed principle of sustainable forestry management which is now globally in trend, and which has never been abandoned by the Croatian forestry. Due to that fact Croatia has 95% of natural forests that belong to the best preserved forests in Europe. By taking care of 43.5% of the Croatian land area, forestry profession has a great responsibility not only over the forests as the source of raw material for further processing, but also over their welfare functions: social (touristic, esthetic, recreational, health function) and ecological (hydrological, anti-erosive, climatic, anti-emission, windshield etc.). Preservation of the biodiversity of forests is also one of its main goals.
Since 2006 the Croatian Forestry Society has its own virtual identity – sumari.hr, within which on its website all the branches and activities are promoted, and the current events both in the Society as well as in forestry in general are overviewed.

The same modern technology has been used for the first time to make a globally accessible and fully updated comprehensive Directory of Croatian Foresters. With the idea of listing all the foresters that have ever been working within the forestry sector in Croatia, it comprises more than 14,000 foresters together with their biographies and bibliographies.

Thirdly, the Croatian Forestry Society has done great efforts and is one of the first publishers in Croatia to have fully digitalized all the issues of the Forestry Journal, so that the entire structure of more than 80,000 pages is available globally as well as through the system of the National University Library.

Valuable forestry library should also be edited and uploaded soon and so more than 4000 books and magazines should be available publicly through a partly digitalized virtual forestry library.