



Uutiset

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

Huhtikuu/April 2013

Forests & Society: Minnesota vs Finland **Alan R. Ek, Ph.D.**

Join us for our April program as Dr. Alan Ek, head of the Department of Forest Resources at the University of Minnesota, talks about differences between Minnesota and Finland in the ways forests are viewed and used. Following is an introduction to his presentation:

“The decline and disappearance of glaciers 10,000+ years ago left Minnesota and Finland with significant but somewhat different land and forest resources. Since then, the respective resources and cultures have evolved to societal use and views of forests today that are quite different. Both societies evolved greatly in the last 200 years with respect to their forests. Both societies have seen a restoration of forest resources from early exploitative use to organized management. In fact, Finland today has an economy and society that is still very connected with its forest resources. Minnesota, a now quite urbanized society, has lost many of its connections with forests and finds it difficult to develop consistent policy around the management of these resources. This presentation will describe the changes in forests and how people in both countries use and value these resources.”



Alan R. Ek is Professor and Head, Department of Forest Resources, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. He has B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Minnesota in forestry and a doctorate from Oregon State University in forest measurements. He joined the faculty at Minnesota in 1977, after service with the Canada Department of Fisheries and Forestry and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Program In Brief

Forestry & Society
Alan Ek

April 19, 7:30 p.m.
International Institute
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul
If you need transportation, call

Marianne Wargelin
(612) 374-2718

Alan is the author of numerous research and technical papers on forest growth modeling, inventory design, resource analysis, and planning. In 1997, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant for lecturing and research in environmental sciences and forestry in Finland at the Universities of Helsinki and Joensuu.

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President's Message

By *Bud Berry*

The business meeting part of the March program included the president's comments and several announcements from attendees. Beth Jarvis, the *Utiset* graphic designer, and Jeanne Swope, a contributing *Utiset* writer, have been working on updating the FACA website (www.finnfaca.org). They were pleased to state that the website is current and up-to-date. Please review the site, and if you have anything to add, submit the information to the webmaster, Beth Jarvis, at bethjarvi@gmail.com.



Joan Dwyer announced the upcoming Nordic Genealogy Conference to be held April 26 and 27, at Inver Hills Community College in Inver Grove Heights. The sponsors include seven genealogy organizations that represent the Nordic cultures. The Friday evening session begins with a dessert reception and a lecture by Doug Ohman, photographer for Minnesota Biways, shown on public television. Registration is now open at www.mnngs.org. (See page 3 for more information.)

Tiina Watts, president of Salolampi, reminded us that now is the time to submit applications for the Salolampi camps before the various deadlines pass.

Pam Rahkola reiterated the urgency to find a new manager(s) for the Festival of Nations Finnish food concession.

FACA would like to recruit new members. Membership does not require that the member be of Finnish heritage. Our incorporation papers show a great inclusiveness of FACA by stating "membership is open to any person interested in its purpose upon payment of dues."

FACA meetings are open to the public. Please consider inviting friends interested in Finnish culture to be your guest at an upcoming FACA program.

New Scholarship Available for College Students Attending Salolampi Finnish Language Village

A new 50 percent reduction in tuition scholarship will be granted to college or university students who wish to attend a Salolampi Adult Week or Family Fun Weekend program at Salolampi Finnish Language Village in Bemidji, Minnesota. To qualify, the student must have attended or graduated from an accredited college or university within the calendar year. One scholarship per person per year is allowed, limited to the first 12 qualifying applicants. See www.salolampi.org for more information on the language village or to download an application for the scholarship and register for a language immersion course.

Board Notes

By Harlan Stoehr



Left to right: Richard Harju, Harlan Stoehr, Glen Bay, Bud Berry, Edith Boos, Kara Middleton

All directors attended the March board meeting, correspondence was noted, and the usual reports were received and discussed. The secretary noted attendance of 52 at the February program and receipt of board minutes dated May 8, 2007, through May 18, 2010.

There was considerable discussion of the lack of successors to the Bernards and Rahkolas to manage the Finnish Café at Festival of Nations, potential solutions, and that, because of a waiting list, if relinquished for a year, the Café space may not again be available.

The president announced that Luella Zibell agreed to chair an audit committee, and that he intends to appoint a nominating committee shortly. Bay indicated his availability for a second term. Harju announced his resignation as director effective May 17 due to family concerns.

At the secretary's request, because of lack of guidelines, the board discussed content of the *Utiliset* Board Notes column. Consensus was to leave it to the secretary's discretion.

The next board meeting was set for 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 17, at Perkins Restaurant, Roseville.

Conversational Finnish Class

Tuesdays, 4:00-5:25 p.m.

St. Anthony Library

Corner of Como and Carter Ave.

St. Paul

Everyone is welcome.

For more information, please call

Urho Rahkola at (651) 429-3319



Nordic Genealogy Conference

Join us for an exciting two-day conference focusing on research and resources for the Nordic Nations and genealogy skill-building, April 26-27, at Inver Hills Community College, Fine Arts Building.

Inver Hills Community College in Inver Grove Heights provides a beautiful setting, parking is free, and IHCC is easily accessible from Highway 52.

Events start with a dessert reception on Friday evening and a media presentation by Doug Ohman. In addition, meet the honorary consuls from several Nordic countries. Please feel free to wear traditional dress.

Saturday is a full-day conference with presentations by Duane Swanson and Ryan Mattke, along with eighteen break-out sessions focusing on Swedish, Sami, Norwegian, Icelandic, Finnish, Danish, and general genealogy topics. Saturday's event also includes a limited number of short consultations and translations by the sponsoring groups.

We'll also have an exhibit hall staffed by various societies, libraries and archives, and providers of products and services. During lunch, we'll share details of family naming traditions for each country and maybe a joke or two. And, don't forget the silent auction and door prizes!

Additional information and how to sign up for these sessions is available online at www.mngs.org

Festival of Nations

By Pamela Rahkola

The 2013 Festival of Nations (<http://festivalofnations.com/>) will be held May 2–5, at the RiverCentre in St. Paul.

We could still use several café volunteers for Saturday, May 4, especially the morning (8:45-12:30) and the evening shifts (7:00-11:00 p.m). However, if you're interested in volunteering for other days/times, please call; and we'll try to work you in.

Free entrance tickets for all volunteers along with directions and maps will be available at the April FACA program. \$2 parking tickets for the shuttle lot will also be available, but must be ordered ahead of time.

Workers in the cafés are required to wear a costume representative of their ethnic background. We have aprons and scarves for the ladies and ask men to wear dark slacks, white shirts (or a plain collarless shirt) and a fisherman-type cap if you have one. We have a few pair of suspenders available for the men. Thank you to all who have already requested shifts.

The festival is open to students only during the day on May 2–3.

General Public hours are:

Friday, May 3, 4:00 p.m.–10:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 4, 10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 5, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

**A special attraction this year will be a live concert Friday night that will include the internationally renowned Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars, local popular group Salsa del Soul, and Rahim Alhaj —master of the Iraqi oud (back by popular demand!)

The Finnish Café Baking Day will be held on Saturday, April 27, at the White Bear Lake South Campus High School kitchen. We will start at 7:00 a.m, and hopefully finish well before 3:00 that afternoon. Information and directions will be available at the April FACA program, for all volunteers.—Please wear a scarf/apron and bring cooling racks if you have them. (This is the day we bake the cakes, cookies, and *piirakkeas* for the Café.)

We are still looking for and NEED a volunteer(s) to step forward and chair the 2014 Festival of Nations Finnish Café. Please contact the FACA board or me, if you have any interest or would just like to talk it over. If you are thinking about it, it really would be helpful to come forward this year and “tag along” to see what's involved. A Finnish Café has been a part of

the Festival of Nations since at least 1939 (74 years). If there are no volunteers, the Finnish Café space will be released next year. Hopefully, it is a tradition that can be continued forward.

Please call me at (651) 429-3319 or email me at: pamela.rahkola@comcast.net with any questions or to volunteer.

Kiitos!

Tango Pohjan Tähtien Album Release Party



You're invited to *Tango Pohjan Tähtien's* release party for their self-titled debut album on Thursday, May 30, at the American Swedish Institute (ASI) from 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Tango Pohjan Tähtien (Tango North Star) is a Finnish tango quartet from Minneapolis composed of Finnish, American, and Finnish-American musicians. The group aims to reinterpret and modernize classic Finnish mid-century tango through the varied musical influences of its members. Their debut album features pianist Timo Alakotila, one of Finland's most versatile and in-demand composers, arrangers, and multi-instrumentalists. The collaboration combines traditional Finnish tangos with Argentine tango nuevo, American jazz, and Finnish folk music to create a new sound; but the soul of Finnish tango is never far under the surface of these new arrangements.

Join us for this evening of music and dancing! Tickets are \$12/person, and may be purchased in advance by calling ASI at (612) 871-4907; tickets also will be available at the door.” Albums will be for sale at the event, and a cash bar will be available.

Summer Calendar Issue Seeks Summer Activities

Our June issue is traditionally the summer calendar. If you know of a June-September event of interest to the Finnish community, please send info on the event to facaeditor@gmail.com.



Soiva Music Camp

Soiva Music Camp will be held at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota. Soiva is an international music adventure in partnership between Concordia College and Finlandia Foundation National with additional support from the Minnesota Finnish American Historical Society. This year Soiva Camp will be a week later, June 22–30, and campers will have the opportunity to perform at the Norwegian Stave Church during the Hjemkomst Festival.

The music camp is for students in grades 6 through 12. Soiva Music Camp provides a perfect opportunity to experience world-class music instruction on a whole new level. Private lessons are given on piano, flute, clarinet, violin, and composition/improvisation. At Soiva, students interact with first-rate faculty and other students from both the U.S. and Finland. In addition to receiving individual lessons, students also discover the joy of playing in small chamber music ensembles. Their daily musical experiences culminate in a final public concert.

More information at: finlandiafoundation.org



Check Out the New FACA Website

The FACA website has recently been updated. Jeanne Swope has made the lion's share of the improvements to the site. Please check it out at www.finnfaca.org.

Comments, corrections and additions should be sent to bethjarvi@gmail.com.

FACA Observes Its 30th Anniversary

March marked the 30th anniversary of FACA's founding. The organization's articles of incorporation were recorded in the office of the Secretary of State on March 21, 1983. In honor of the occasion, Ahvo Taipale, a FACA founder, returned to speak at the program. Alan Norgard also was a founding director.



Ahvo spoke of his membership in the Finnish American Historical Society in the 1970s and 1980s and the subsequent formation of FACA in 1983. Accompanying him were his wife, Kirsti, and her parents, Michael and Elaine Anuta. Mr. and Mrs. Anuta were recipients of the Sauna Bucket award in 2001; both were active in FACA, he is a past president. She is a director emeritus of Salolampi Foundation.

Ahvo owns the ski and sauna shop, Finnsisu, in Lauderdale. FACA board member Kara Middleton presented him with the FACA Sauna Bucket pin commemorating his service.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FACA needs your ideas and your helping hand. If you can help with any of the committees or events, please return this form. Thanks!

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Laskiainen</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Pikkujoulu</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Festival of Nations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Phone |

Name _____

Address _____

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Return to FACA, P.O. Box 580708,
Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708 or bring to the
next program.

March Program Recap

By Kara Middleton

Guest speaker Dennis Halme spoke about the history and significance of many Finnish surnames at the FACA program on March 15.

Dennis described three traditions from which Finnish surnames have been generated. In Western Finland, surnames often came from association with a farm or other geographic location. Families would take the name of a farm that they purchased. These names often end in “la,” such as *Jussila* (“farm of *Juss*”). These names were not always passed down through generations.

In the Eastern Finnish tradition, the practice of slash and burn agriculture resulted in a more nomadic style of living which made having surnames necessary. Surnames were common in this region starting in the thirteenth century. Many of these names were taken from the patriarch of the family.

In another tradition, Finnish people who achieved a position of education or status in society would often drop their Finnish surname in exchange for a Swedish or German surname to associate themselves with nobility. This tradition fell into disuse in the 19th and early 20th century, as the political movement of Fennicization encouraged the adoption of Finnish surnames. Many of the names adopted at this time came from features of nature, such as *Lahti* (bay) or *Saari* (island). Dennis engaged a question and answer session in which he reported on the origin of many surnames offered by the audience.

Dan & Delores Salin, Kathy Jackson, and Bette Ruskanen provided a beautiful array of post-program treats decorated with a St. Urho’s Day theme.

Books about Finnish Names

By Jeanne Svope

After listening to Dennis Halme’s talk on Finnish last names, do you feel that you need your own Finnish name book to pore over?

Sukunimet by Pirjo Mikkonen and Sirkka Paikalla, which Dennis used at the program, appears to be available at various U.S. sources, but when you investigate further, the source has only listed the name of the book and doesn’t have any copies. It’s very likely that used copies are available in Finland; you may find it if you are literate in both *suomea* and Google!

Another book on the subject is available right now from abebooks.com. The book is *Sukunimet: Sukunimi*,

Luettele Suomalaisetuista Sukunimist, by Martin, Walter, Smith, Eeva, Adam, Korhonen, Jones, Virtanen, Johnson. This is a “print on demand” book, priced at \$34.82 plus shipping.

Warning: Browsing on the computer for and buying used books you remember from the past or unusual books you think you just have to have is a dangerous addiction—but such fun, and so many of the books are great bargains. And occasionally you find that if the kids hadn’t read *Ant and Bee and the ABC* so thoroughly (that is to say, to pieces), you might actually own a valuable book!

For a less expensive way to browse and learn, Wikipedia and Wiktionary offer a lot of information about Finnish names, one by one.

Customary Flag Days in Finland

By Beth Jarvis

These are not official flag days but those traditionally celebrated.

April 9 is the Day of the Finnish language. It is the day Mikael Agricola, father of written Finnish died and the birthday of Elias Lönnrot, the collector of the tales in the *Kalevala*.

Agricola was born in 1510 to affluent peasant farmers. Early on, his talent and eagerness to learn came to the attention of the local parson who urged his parents to send him to Latin school in Viipuri/Vyborg. He took the name “Agricola” as a tribute to his father, a farmer.

He was ordained a priest in the early 1530s during the Lutheran Reformation. He traveled to the University of Wittenberg, Germany in 1536, while Martin Luther was in residence. He passed his Master of Arts examination in 1539 and became rector of a cathedral school in Turku.

He drafted his first Finnish primer in 1543 and five year later translated the *New Testament* into Finnish. He became bishop of Turku. He died in 1557.

Elias Lönnrot (April 9, 1802– March 19, 1884) was a Finnish physician best known for his interest in traditional Finnish oral poetry. He compiled the *Kalevala*, the national epic of Finland, from folk tales he gathered on several trips in Finland, Russian Karelia, the Kola Peninsula, and Baltic countries.

Lönnrot, born in Sammatti, Uusimaa province, studied medicine at the Academy of Turku. When the Academy was destroyed in the Great Fire of Turku, he and the Academy moved to Helsinki. He graduated in 1832.

He got a break in his first position in Kajaani in Eastern Finland. A famine and pestilence in the district prompted the previous doctor to resign, opening a spot for a very young doctor. Several years of crop failures followed with corresponding population and livestock losses complicated by a lack of a local hospital. He was the only doctor for 4,000 or so people, who lived in scattered, small communities. Many people sought local healers and natural remedies, as doctors and prescriptions were expensive. Lönnrot believed in traditional remedies but also promoted preventative measures such as good hygiene, breastfeeding babies, and vaccinations.

He began collecting folk tales from rural people around 1827. In 1831, the Finnish Literature Society was founded, and Lönnrot received financial support for continued collection from the society he helped found.

Lönnrot took extended leaves from his medical practice to tour the Finnish countryside of Finland, Lapland, and nearby portions of Russian Karelia. He wrote a series of books, the most famous being *Kalevala*, 1835–1836 (the "old" *Kalevala*) and an expanded second edition of *Kalevala*, 1849 (the "new" *Kalevala*). He was appointed to the Chair of Finnish Literature at the University of Helsinki in recognition for his role in preserving Finland's oral traditions.

He compiled the first Finnish-Swedish dictionary (*Finsk-Svensket lexikon*, 1866–1880), composed of over 200,000 entries. Many of the Finnish translations were coined by Lönnrot himself. His vast knowledge of traditional Finnish poetry made him a definite authority in Finland and many of his inventions have stuck. Finnish scientific terminology in particular was influenced by Lönnrot's work; and, therefore, many abstract terms that have a Latin or Greek etymology in mainstream European languages appear as native neologisms in Finnish.

Botanists remember him for writing the first Finnish-language *Flora Fennica – Suomen Kasvisto* in 1860; in its day, it was famed throughout Scandinavia, as it was one of the first common-language scientific texts. The *Flora Fennica* was the first scientific work published in Finnish (instead of Latin). In addition, Lönnrot's *Flora Fennica* includes many notes on plant uses in between descriptions of flower and leaf.

April 27, National War Veterans' Day

Finland celebrated National Veterans' Day for the first time on April 27, 1987 as a part of the 70th anniversary of the Independence of Finland, 42 years after the Second World War.

To celebrate the occasion, municipalities and cities arrange different ceremonies where veteran organizations are represented and veterans are invited as the guests of honor. The main festival of the day is arranged in one of the biggest cities in Finland.

Source: Wikipedia and Finnish websites

Pieniä Paloja

- Wonderful treats were provided at the March program by Kathy Jackson, Dan and Dolores Salin, and Bette Ruskanen. There were decorations commemorating St Urho. *Kiitos!*
- Greenpeace activists have scaled the walls of the government office in Helsinki to protest plans for the construction of two more nuclear power stations in Finland.
- St. Petersburg is home to some 500 Finnish companies, but work permits and an often long and difficult visa process for Finnish summer workers deters recruitment for many Finns looking for summer jobs in Russia.
- Kimi Räikkönen, driving for Lotus, won the opening Formula 1 race held in Malaysia.
- We all know that a sauna is good for you, and now so does Health Wire, a mens' online health newsletter. Check out their article 5 Health Benefits of Sauna at www.myhealthwire.com/news/mind-body/376
- According to a study conducted by the Family Federation of Finland, limited career prospects and relationship troubles deter Finns from starting a family.
- The Helsinki Zoo is one of the city's top year-round tourist attractions, especially for families. These days the zoo is increasingly focusing its animal collections on helping to conserve species threatened by extinction in the wild.

FACA Membership

A one-year membership provides you with nine issues of this newsletter, plus other benefits, for \$25. To subscribe or renew, complete this form and mail with your check to FACA, P.O. Box 580708, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708. (Check mailing label for membership expiration date.)

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Email _____



Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.

P.O. Box 580708

Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708

FACA

Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.

is an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the cross-cultural heritage of Americans with Finnish ancestry.

Information: (612) 374-2718, www.finnfaca.org

April 5 SUO (a Finnish trio) and Kaivama in concert 7:00-9:00 p.m., Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis www.suomusic.net or www.kaivama.com

April 7 Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Hella W* <http://www.ses.fi/en/film.asp?id=1015> Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Avenue South, Minneapolis. More information: Movie group page or (651) 428- 3155.

April 13 Family Afternoon featuring Sámi Yoiker Stina Fagertun, 1:00-5:00 p.m., American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis. This program is included with museum admission; no registration required.

April 17 FACA Board meeting, 7:00 p.m., Perkins, Roseville.

April 19 FACA program: *Forests and Society*

April 20 Finnish Genealogy Group, 9:30 a.m. *Back to the Basics*. Joan Dwyers will demonstrate a few valuable Finnish research Internet sites. Cathie Reasoner will highlight a few things about www.ancestry.com. Plymouth Apostolic Church, 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth. More information: FGGMN website or dwyers@ties2.net

April 26 *Utiset* deadline. Copy: facaeditor@gmail.com

April 26-27 Nordic Genealogy Conference, Inver Hills Community College. (See page 3).

April 27 Festival of Nations Café Baking Day, White

Bear Lake South Campus High School kitchen. 7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Questions to Pam (651) 429-3319 or pamela.rahkola@comcast.net (See page 4.)

May 2-5 Festival of Nations, St. Paul RiverCentre.

May 10-12 Salolampi Spring Work Weekend. For more information, salolampi.org

May 12 Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Valo* <http://finnish.imdb.com/title/tt0453413/> Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Avenue South, Minneapolis. More information: Movie group page or (651) 428-3155.

May 12-18 Salolampi Spring Adult Week, salolampi.org

May 17 FACA program and board election.

May 24 *Utiset* deadline. Copy: facaeditor@gmail.com

May 30 Tango Pohjan CD release party, 7:00-9:00 p.m., American Swedish Institute (See page 4).

June 19–23 FinnFest USA 2013 will be held in Upper Michigan's Copper Country. For more information, finnfestusa2013.org

Welcome New Member!

Lynn Laakkonen, Minneapolis

Tervetuloa!