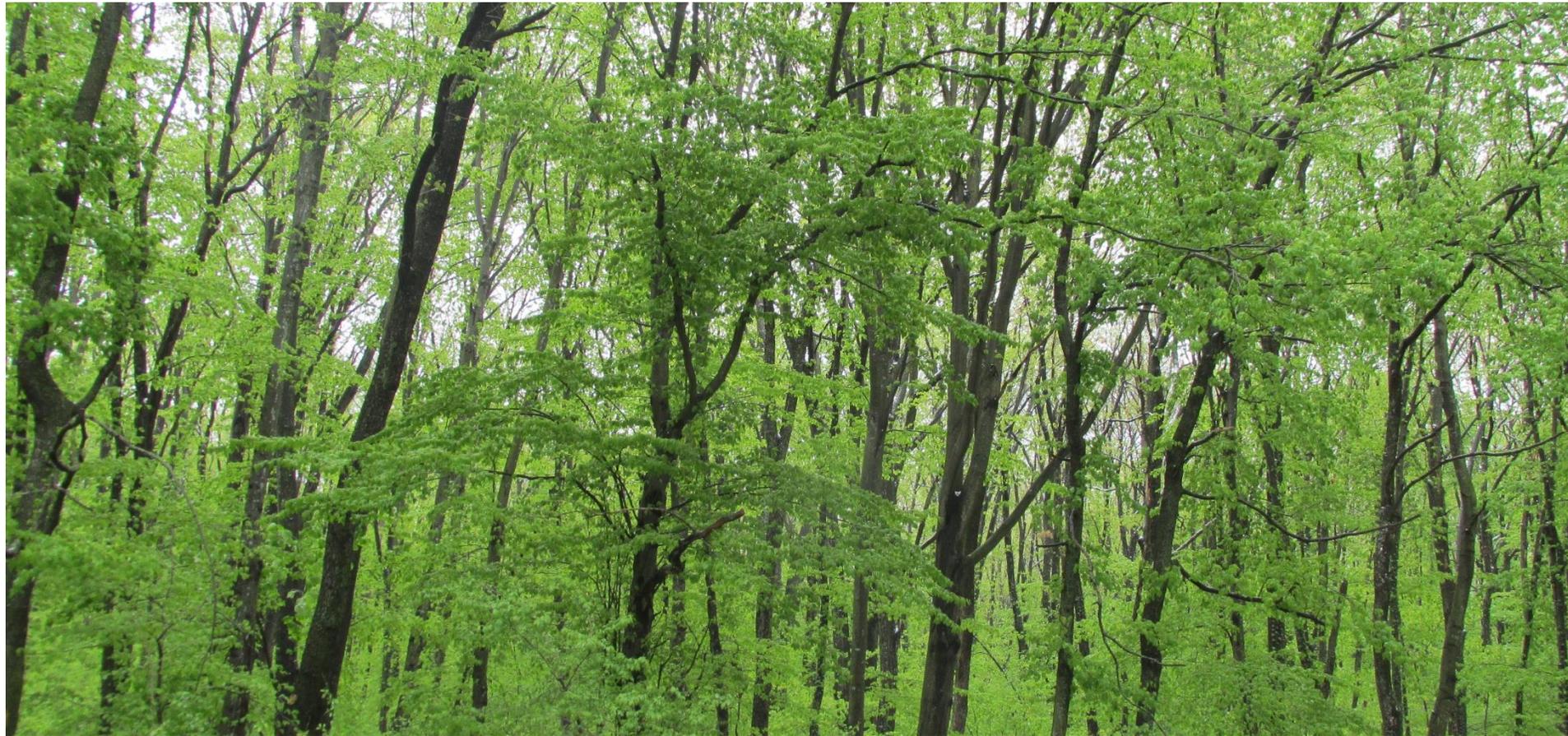


International Day of Forests and Afforestation Week in Bulgaria

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World Forest Day is celebrated on 21 March

It has been celebrated since 1972, on the day of the spring equinox; it was initiated by the 23rd session of the European Agricultural Confederation (November 1971), supported by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization



The first organized afforestation day in Bulgaria was held on April 12, 1925

It was the result of the joint work of two ministries - the Ministry of People's Education and the Ministry of Agriculture and State Properties.



The beginning

During the first year of the Afforestation Day, the people planted **420,000** forest saplings and **20** kg of forest seeds. The following year the number of planted trees grew to **3 120,000** forest saplings and **208** kg of seeds.

The first Forest Week in Bulgaria took place from April 15-22, 1934

For the first time, the proposal to turn the afforestation day into a week was made by the trainee arborist Georgi Minkov in his article "On the afforestation day" in the Forestry Overview Magazine (pages 1-2, 1934).



The message

- ▶ The author writes: "I think it is the duty of the arborists, and especially of us young people to think more seriously about the organization of afforestation."



The importance of afforestation

"The idea is also that arborists from all parts of the country promote awareness-raising about the importance of forests and afforestation,, (Georgi Minkov).



The decision

This proposal was accepted and the first Forest Week, opened by the Head of the Forest and Hunting Department Ilia Stoyanov, was held from **April 15 to 22, 1934.**



Following the tradition

Every year, the pensioners from the 20 clubs of the Union of Pensioners of Slivo Pole Municipality perform activities aimed at nature conservation. They help the Municipality by afforesting places with clay soil or wetlands.



Afforestation week 2019

In September 2019, 2000 black poplar trees were planted on an area encompassing 25 acres of land.









The people who did it

The number of participants was 220 people, the oldest was 92 years old, and the youngest was just 9.

WHY SHOULD WE DO IT?

Mrs. Veska Uzunova, the President of the Union of Pensioners of the Slivo Pole Municipality says:

- ▶ The forest is life. The forest is also history, tradition, and concern mentioned in our folk songs; it has been painted by artists and described by writers and poets for so many years.
- ▶ Thanks to our statesmen of the past, today we have our centuries-old forests which we are obliged to conserve because they are the oxygen of our people.

We will now show you how we are planting trees at home.