

Murumets

Murumets is a forest massive mainly consisting of great firs, tall birches and aspens. In the bush storey the hazel is the most spread bush, we can also find the honeysuckle and the sweet currant, the mezeon and the grape pear.

From the herbs the asarabacca, the lungwort, the hepatica blossom in spring; the Solomon's seal, the lesser butterfly orchid and the bird's-nest orchid blossom in summer.

In the dense brushwood and gross herbs the wood wrens, the wren and other Passeres have found their nesting place. In some places we can hear the pecking of woodpeckers (the black woodpecker, the three-toed woodpecker, the gray-headed woodpecker).



☐ Robin

Murumetsa Path

The Murumetsa Path runs through the park of Lake Pühajärv to Murumetsa and back. The path is altogether 3.5 km long and it takes approximately 1-1.5 hours to walk it through. By the information tables installed at the path, you can observe and learn about the flora and fauna of our forests as well as culture landscapes.

Pühajärv War Oak

The diameter of the Pühajärv War Oak is 698 cm and the height is 22 m. The age of this lone tree is considered to be 300-400 years. Because of the hollow in the trunk it is not possible to determine the age exactly.

The War Oak has got its name after the revolt of the peasants against the Pühajärv squire in 1841.

More information about nature:

Riiklik Looduskaitsekeskus
Põlva-Valga-Võru regioon
Kolga tee 28, Otepää
67405 Valgamaa
Tel: 766 9290

Compilers:

Margit Turb, Tarmo Evestus

Photos: Arne Ader, Sven Zacek

Layout: OÜ Bubo

Composing of the booklet is
financed by: EAS and SA KIK



Riiklik
Looduskaitsekeskus



MURRUMETSA
path

Otepää nature park



Lake Pühajärv

Lake Pühajärv is the largest lake of the Otepää Upland. The area of the lake is 290 ha, the greatest depth is 8.5 m. There are several legends about the origin of Lake Pühajärv. According to one of these Lake Pühajärv has fallen from the skies:

"In the old times the inhabitants of Otepää thought that God lived at Munamägi and he could see everything that the people of the neighbourhood did. The people were afraid of the punishment in case of improper way of living, that's why they led an exemplary life. The people living more far called the land of Munamägi a holy land. But there was no water in the holy land. The people asked God to send them water. Once awful clouds of thunderstorm rose into the sky, they burst and started pouring huge amounts of water. So a lake was created. The lake



□ Goldeneye

having come from the skies was considered to be holy and the people named it Pühajärv (Holy Lake). The people often took sacrifices to Lake Pühajärv."

Lake Pühajärv is peculiar for its tortuous coastline and five forested islands. Sõsarsaared (Sister Islands) can be well seen from the shore, Kloostisaar (Cloister Island) is situated in the centre of the lake, in the southern part of the lake there are Suur- and Väike-Lepasaar (Big and Small Alder Island). The head of the river Väike-Emajõgi is also in the southern part of the lake.

The fauna of Lake Pühajärv is varied, among the fish the most numerous species are the pike, the zander, the roach, the crucian, the eel. The following birds nest here: the great crested grebe, the mallard, the tufted duck, the goldeneye, the goosander, the common tern, the common gull. The most patient observers can have the opportunity to meet such shy mammals as the beaver, the otter, the roe or the badger, from the birds the kingfisher or the osprey.