

Oak Grove Protected in the Kuybyshev Oblast

A section of forest in the Alekseevo region of the Kuybyshev Oblast, where age-old oaks form a kind of oasis in the stifling steppe, has been taken under state protection. Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy loved to spend time in this small oak grove which covers approximately four hectares. The novelist had bought some land not far from here and used to visit often over the course of five years. The Gavrilov Rural Council and the local "Luch Il'icha" collective farm have become responsible for the oak grove.

The Kuybyshev Oblast Council of Peoples' Deputies has designated "natural monuments" in 39 areas. The administration of the subsidiary farm in the "Ekran" plant, for example, will look after the unique sulphur spring located nearby. Students from the No. 1 High School in Syzran' are carefully looking after the gigantic black poplar, which is so wide it takes three men to encompass it with arms outstretched, and which the future writer Aleksey Tolstoy used to admire when he was a student at the local school.

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