

The EUROPARC Federation

The voice of Europe's protected areas



E-News November 2008

Planning for 2009: Staff meeting and early "Spring" clean in Grafenau



Last week the whole EUROPARC Team met in Grafenau for a 4 day team meeting. On the agenda was the new workplanning and performance appraisal systems as well as a long overdue office clear out!

In a tidy fury the team worked their way around the different rooms in the office getting rid of all extraneous, unused and broken material. At the end of a very long day we proudly managed to almost fill the huge paper container as well as 3 trailer loads of broken furniture, plastic, old folders etc etc.

The clear out also meant that we have been able to make some distinct changes to the kitchen and the upstairs snug, making the office a more comfortable place to work in and to entertain guests in. So please come and visit your new headquarters!

The remainder of the week was spent preparing the 2009 work plan for the Federation as well as on a performance appraisal system which will be put in place in 2009.

We were also invited to spend a day with the staff of Sumava National Park (www.npsumava.cz) in the Czech Republic only 40 minutes from Grafenau! Michael Valenta and Zdenkja Křenová picked us up from the border crossing and gave us detailed information about Sumava as we drove through the park.



Read more and view pictures of our team week at www.europarc.org/news.

Call for NatuRegio applications 09/10

NatuRegio

trainees for nature

Young nature conservation professionals from Bulgaria and Romania are invited to **apply for a trainee position within the NATUREGIO programme.**

The positions are open to ten young employees and decision-makers in the field of nature conservation and regional development from Bulgaria and Romania. The programme offers intensive training events and work placements in Germany. Participants also develop and implement a project of their choice in the organisations that they work for.

Deadline for applications is the 15 Jan. 09. Interviews with applicants will be held in February and the training starts in March.

The project schedule and flyer can be downloaded at www.europarc.org/news. For more information please visit www.naturegio-bg-ro.de or contact Diana Gallrapp at d.gallrapp@europarc.org.

News from www.workingfornature.org



www.workingfornature.org, EUROPARC's internet portal for internships in protected areas, is currently **undergoing changes**, including the new banner above, thanks to suggestions from this year's interns.

The new version of the site is already online. **Why not pay it a visit, let us know what you think and add your current internships vacancies?!**

Comments/queries to Damien de Chanterac at d.dechanterac@europarc.org.

European Charter event: Linking tourism and biodiversity

Regional development and benefits from the European **Charter for Sustainable Tourism** in Protected Areas is the topic of an **information event** that is being organised as part of the European CharterNet project in Brussels at the regional office of the Euroregion of the Mediterranean Alps on the **9th of December 08**. The seminar will introduce the European Charter to participants and also highlight case studies from Charter protected areas.



The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas is a practical management tool that helps protected areas to continuously improve the sustainable tourism development implementing activities that are ecologically, economically and socially balanced. The Charter has been successfully implemented for ten years strengthening the link between people and nature.

Download the programme and registration form at www.european-charter.org/seminar. Contact Petra Dippold at p.dippold@europarc.org for more information.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: Member access for www.europarc.org

Thanks to all of you who have visited the new website, given us your feedback and pointed out parts that are not quite right. We are extremely pleased to say that we have had **over 2500 visitors from 74 different countries** to the site so far this month!

Many of you have been asking us about member access to the internet site, which is unfortunately taking a little while to set up. The member map has also had a few hitches which has also slowed the process. We can, however, assure you that we will be sending you all **individual usernames and passwords at the beginning of next year**. In the meantime, if you wish to share anything with other members or need someone's contact details please contact Morwenna Parkyn at m.parkyn@europarc.org.

If you no longer wish to receive these updates from us or you have any questions or comments please send an e-mail to office@europarc.org or phone us on 0049 8552 96 100.

Please circulate this E-News within your organisation and to those who might be interested!



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EUROPARC Atlantic Isles

EUROPARC Atlantic Isle' October Seminar - a beginners view!

Anne Webster, EUROPARC Consulting, reports on her first seminar experience with EUROPARC Atlantic Isle at the October seminar "Making sustainable tourism a foundation of the rural economy" in Belfast.

As a newcomer to EUROPARC Consulting I blew into Belfast airport in the teeth of a gale, unsure of quite what to expect. Having worked on projects for some months from the Yorkshire Dales my only contact with EUROPARC colleagues had been by phone and email. Here was a chance to put names to faces, and get an idea of the 'bigger picture'.

A first look at the hotel, the Europa, and then a dizzying whirl of meeting and greeting; a kaleidoscope of names and workplaces – how would I ever remember who everyone was? Clambering aboard the bus for the field trip it seemed odd that I had been concerned about finding someone to speak to! Swishing by coach through the rainy, cloud draped approaches to the broad sweeps and dips of the Antrim coast the enticing landscapes still tempted despite the wet. Enthusiastic and dedicated people introduced us to the charms of country parks, walled gardens and breezy beaches, backed by lush green glens and scattered ancient settlements. Even a brisk walk into the gentle hills rising above the coast that ended in a downpour only confirmed people's impressions that they would love to see more and explore further.

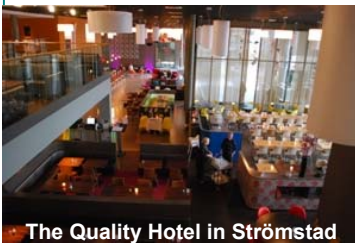
Read the full article at www.europarc.org/news

EUROPARC 2009: Developments from Sweden

Thanks to the hard work of the planning team from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Municipality and Tourist Board Strömstad, and the Västra Götaland County Administrative Board the plans for the 2009 conference in Sweden are well advanced. The Federation's Director joined the team last week for two day planning session at the conference venue, the Quality Hotel in Strömstad (www.stromstadspa.se).



Sweden will be holding the presidency of the EU at the time of our conference and will have the Environment ministers of the EU at the hotel immediately prior to our conference. In addition, there will be an inauguration of national parks on the Swedish and Norwegian borders hopefully attended by the Kings of Norway and Sweden. It will be a feat of organisation...but one the Swedes are very much taking in their stride!



The Quality Hotel in Strömstad



The area around the hotel

The venue and location are excellent with much to interest and stimulate Federation members. Many of the study visits will be of a marine and coastal nature, but landlubbers too will have a good choice. The conference title "A shared inheritance; a common future" will be explored through the themes of adaptation and benefits and connectivity, which will be explored in detail through topics such as biodiversity, coastal and marine, sustainable use and climate change – mitigation and management.

The conference is also seeking to be the most sustainable EUROPARC conference yet, with much efforts being made to ensure local produce are used as well as sustainable transport!

Watch out for more information on our website www.europarc.org soon!

Celebrating 100 Years of National Parks.

The project commemorating 100 years of national parks in Europe is coming along in leaps and bounds.

We are, however, still missing information and pictures from some national parks. So if you have not done so already please download the questionnaire from www.europarc.org/working-together/on-current-activities and send us your answers with some pictures of your park.

The deadline for getting us this information is 15 March 2009!

Alfred Toepfer Scholarship report: Junior Ranger Projects in Europe

One of the greatest challenges facing protected areas today is to find ways of demonstrating that the conservation of nature and culture and the sustainable use of natural resources have a fundamental relevance to people's daily lives. The **Junior Ranger Programme** is an ideal tool to foster strong and lasting bonds between local communities and their protected areas.



Květa Černošková, one of the 2007 Alfred Toepfer Scholarship holders, used her funding to visit various Junior Ranger Projects in Europe. Her report, the result of her research, provides insight into the **different methodologies of Junior Ranger Programmes across Europe** and proposes a unification of project aims and methodology. Download Květa's report at www.europarc.org/what-we-do/awards-and-grants

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