



EUROPARC NORDIC-BALTIC

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Military Orchid / photo by K.Lotman

Coming months are the most desired time of having a summer holidays. Thus secretariat wishes you wonderful vacation – find the time to take sunbaths, swim, make grilling events and spend quality time with your family!

In this newsletter we have a new column by section president Kaja Lotman, who shares with you what she thinks, sees and feels around her! And also we will provide you with interesting facts („Did you know?“ and „Facts“).

President's corner

Spring in Matsalu National Park has been moist and cool. Spring storms have drowned the nests of some coastal birds, at the same time the majority of white-tailed eagles have nested successfully and there are more corn crakes on our heymeadows than last year.

The Military Orchid blossoms powerfully and soon Common Spotted-orchid and all others will follow. House martins build their clay nests under the eaves of the Keemu harbour guardman cabin. During the nights Pond Bats and Daubenton's Bats fly over the rivers, Thrush Nightingale is whistling loudly with trills and clicks. In Estonian we believe the song is "öö-pikk", meaning "night's-long" but we do not believe it: days are long, and nights white and short now. Country-side yards are smelling of Lilac blossoms fragrance, it is time to find your luck. Children are eagerly waiting for ripening of wild strawberries and warming up of the sea water.

Meeting with „Health“ working group

EUROPARC's working group „Health“ met in Copenhagen June 12-13 to revise what has been accomplished and what are the ideas to develop health and nature topics in the Nordic-Baltic and Atlantic Isles sections.

Brainstorming in nice atmosphere of Vestmager Nature Center drove us to the idea of launching a project, which could involve both sections as well as other partners in the EUROPARC network.

Another proposal for section members is to join the initiative „Healthy parks, healthy people“ and use their platform for our protected areas as well.

The working group keeps members updated!

News from our member countries

SWEDEN / New member to join the Nordic-Baltic section / Rie Stagegaard

„Hamra National Park is the most remarkable of woodland, one that should still be found in Sweden’s woodlands”. This is how Hamra’s woodlands were described by a researcher in 1903.

Hamra National Park lies in an undulating landscape of softly rounded bedrock. The national park was founded in 1909 and is most famed for its woodlands. Walking between the old pines is a journey back in time, to the woodland as it once was. Around the woodland, a large area of wetland opens out, where the cranes dance in magnificent tranquility in the spring.



Hamra National Park is the first Park to implement the new brand National Parks of Sweden. Here visitors will find information boards, signs, folders etc formed by a coherent design concept.

FINLAND / Finland taking steps in volunteering coordination / Liisa Nikula

Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services has successfully managed volunteer work in Finnish protected areas for more than three decades. Last year the Natural Heritage Services decided to open new doors for volunteering through the Volunteer work development project. As a result a coordinator for volunteer work was hired in February 2012. Ms Eveliina Nygren will manage the volunteer development project that will last until the end of 2014. “Our first aim was to build our goals for the management of volunteering. In May we finished our strategy work and now we are starting the development and innovation part of the project”, says Eveliina.

Contact Eveliina Nygren (eveliina.nygren@metsa.fi) for more information.

ESTONIA / Study trip to Finland / Aleksei Lotman

Within the Central Baltic project „Natureship“, the study trip of nature conservation professionals from Western-Estonia to protected sites of South-Western Finland was carried out. Main target was the **Saaristomeri Kansallispuisto** (Archipelago National Park in English) but on the road we visited two mainland sites. All the sites in question are managed by the Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services – the organization in charge of National Parks and other protected areas on state land. Our group consisted of four people from Environmental Board – Kaja Lotman, Tõnu Talvi, Kadri Paomees and Piret Sepp – and one from Estonian Fund for Nature – Aleksei Lotman.

We were welcomed on land by Tiina Kanerva and her colleagues who gave us an introduction to management and restoration of various semi-natural habitats – mostly coastal meadows and wood-pastures – in two mainland protected sites by means of grazing, mowing and bush-clearing. We then proceeded to our main destination – Saaristomeri.

Leif Lindgren has spent most of his working life organizing restoration and management of various semi-natural habitats in the Archipelago. Coastal meadows, dry meadows, heaths, wood-pastures and wooded meadows are the main habitats in question. Quality of the habitat management in Saaristomeri is impressive. We discussed a lot about differences and similarities of semi-natural habitat management in South-Western Finland and Western-Estonia.

We would hereby like to express our sincerest thanks to the staff of Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services. The renewal of our contacts is clearly important and worth continuing!

LITHUANIA / Lifestyle in Southern Lithuania / David Martín Gallego

Being a volunteer from Catalonia, after four months living in the region of Dzūkija I consider that it’s worthwhile pointing out lifestyle of local people in connection with natural surroundings.

Dzūkija National Park is located in a very densely forested area in the south of Lithuania, where the wildest expression of nature coexists with unique ways of rural life. Over the last centuries these human communities have learnt to live in harmony with nature and, at the same time, to get maximum benefit of its goods and services in a sustainable way. Despite that human practices have been developed overtime and some ancestral traditions have been missed from generation to generation, in the present days a big part of this heritage

is still alive and perceptible. Since my perspective of foreigner established in the Lithuanian country side I find fascinating to get approached to all those genuine cultural features and, as far as possible, get involved in them.

Gone are those days of freezing winter; warmer weather seems to have restored vitality in Marcinkonys village. Neighbours arrange the garden, work outside and start to think about mushrooms season.

At work, in the National Park, volume of work outside has increased too. A wide variety of birds visit us and plants and flowers come out and quickly grow up, so it's time to monitor these changes in order to get caught up with what's going on in the wild life. Also new tourist season is incipient; visitors have to be provided with information about park and range of activities. For this reason, for example, undergrowth needs to be removed from nature trails and new marks need to be affixed or restored. My engagement in the Park consist of collaborate on these works together with the rest of the staff. Beyond this variety of tasks, at a personal level I always try to take part of those studies concerning the natural environment so that this experience can enrich my background as a professional of this field. In this way, I have the chance to implement my own projects thanks to the help of workmates.

Keepings my words, I would like to encourage everyone to visit Dzūkija National Park in summertime and enjoy its awesome landscapes.

Greetings from the woods!



ESTONIA / Estonian nature conservation development plan / Estonian Ministry of Environment

Development plan sets the targets and objectives of the Estonian nature conservation for the years 2013-2020. Estonia is proud to have 1/5th of its surface and 1/3 of water in protection. Almost 1/10 of the forests is under extremely strict regulations that any activity is forbidden there.

DID YOU KNOW?

570 flora, fauna and mushroom species are under protection in Estonia. 45 of them have their own action plans to improve current situation.

FACTS

LIFE programme has financed 3506 projects with 2,5 billion EUR over last 20 years!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Green Heroes European Award 2012

This award is for a volunteer or group that has inspired others, shown outstanding commitment, innovation or achievement in their volunteering, with demonstrable returns for both the individual and their local community, organization and environment.

Deadline for nominations is **July 27th 2012!**

Read more about it here:

<http://www.tcv.org.uk/greenheroes/green-heroes-european-award-2012>

EUROPARC Transboundary Annual meeting „TransParcNet 2012“ / Riina Tervo, Murel Merivee

EUROPARC “**Transboundary Parks** - Following Nature's Design” has 17 members, who are certified as effective partners in protecting shared nature in bordering countries. Members as well as potential members of the network meet annually in different protected areas across Europe, this year on June 11-14 the meeting took place on the Finnish-Norwegian-Russian border in the Trilateral park **Inari-Pasvik**.

The 4-days-long round-trip under the midnight sun embraced all the 3 countries involved: Finland, Norway and Russia. The program consisted of a seminar day, field trips – and in order to cover the rather long distances and to cross the national borders – intensive bus transfers.

The seminar gave a closer look to the Pasvik-Inari cooperation, its history and present actions as well as to the experiences of being a certified transboundary park. In the member's forum the news and challenges of the other transboundary parks were discussed. The seminar

was concluded by networking and visions for future.

The nature, sights and surroundings of the boreal trilateral park were explored during the field trips and transfers. The Pasvik River Valley is the heart of the park. There the Sámi, Finnish, Norwegian and Russian cultures meet as well as Siberian, European and Arctic fauna and flora. The vicinity of mining industries and the hydroelectric power stations in the Pasvik River do belong to the picture.

16 different nationalities got together in the meeting, representatives from 11 transboundary parks and from EUROPARC Federation, IUCN, University College Dublin, Estonian Environmental Board, Latvian Nature Conservation Agency, Finnish Centre for Economic Development and the Environment in Lapland, Murmansk Administration and Murmansk Television.

„Polar day and inspiring cooperation of Inari-Pasvik offered excellent possibilities to discuss about the challenges of transboundary cooperation. Both positive and negative examples were demonstrated whereas all the parks still claim that the TransParcNet program is a useful tool for cross-border cooperation“ describes Murel Merivee from Estonian Environmental Board.



The Trilateral Park consists of Vätsäri wilderness area in Finland, Övre Pasvik National Park in Norway and Pasvik Zapovednik in Russia. Though regimes and managers differ, the management principles are agreed and actions are tuned with the partners.

The next annual meeting will be held in **Naturpark Maas-Schwalm-Nette** (Germany and Holland) in June 2013.

Read more about the trilateral park here: www.pasvik-inari.net. All the presentations are available here: www.metsa.fi/sivustot/metsa/en/WhatsNew/seminarsandconferences/EuroparcTransParcNet2012/Sivut/Seminarprogram.aspx.

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS / July-September

- July 21-28** **International Junior Ranger Camp / Triglav National Park, Slovenia**
<http://europarc.org/what-we-do/junior-ranger>
- August 15-17** **Baltic-Nordic forum for Nature and Environmental Interpretation / Latvia**
- August 20-25** **6th International Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreational and Protected Areas / Stockholm, Sweden**
<http://www.mmv2012.se/index.html>
- August 29-31** **2nd Nordic Adaptation Conference / Helsinki, Finland**
<http://www.nordicadaptation2012.net/>
- September 6-15** **IUCN World Conservation Congress / Jeju, Korea**
<http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org/>

EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section

