

# NAVARINO ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATORY

NEO Management

Friday, 20 April 2012

## **NEO NEA #4 (January-March, 2011)**

NEO stands for Navarino Environmental Observatory. But NEO in Greek (νέο) means news as well and NEA is its plural. So this is our news!

### **Activities**

#### *Past*

- During January 2012 NEO Director Karin Holmgren and NEO station manager Nikos Kalivitis had a series of meetings with local authorities in Messinia, academic and research institutions in Athens and Peloponnese and NGOs to present the NEO initiative and explore the possibilities of research and educational collaborations (Appendix 1). This series of meetings was very important for NEO outreach. The most important visit however was undoubtedly the visit to Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMPEA) Junior and the meeting with 25 third-grade pupils of the "Plato" Elementary School (Picture 1). NEO Director talked to the children about the aims and the research work of the Observatory on the environment and climate change in the Mediterranean region. Following, Dr. Holmgren answered the children's questions regarding the environmental problems facing human communities in Northern Europe, pollution that recognizes no borders and the impacts of climate change on all of us, wherever we live. The visit of the two scientists to the Exhibition took place in the framework of an informative meeting with HELMEPA and TEMES representatives with the aim to enhance cooperation and project the research findings to children and youth through the "HELMPEA Junior" and "Cadets" environmental programs.
- The first lecture of NEO Lecture series 2012 was held by Prof. Sara Cousins, Stockholm University, on February 1 and titled "How landscape patterns influence species diversity". Alasdair Skelton's lecture was cancelled due to bad weather conditions.
- The second Student Field Course at NEO took place February 2–8, 2012. The course chief instructor was Ingmar Borgström and 55 students from Stockholm University attended the course. Sara Cousins, Alasdair Skelton, Martin Finné, Barbara Kleine and Matti Ermold were the other instructors of the field course (Picture 2).

- In parallel to the second field course, part of the INK Master's Level Course: Landscape Ecology - Theory and Design took place at NEO February 2–8, 2012 led by Prof Sara Cousins.
- On 12 March Karin Holmgren and Nikos Kalivitis visited Ephoreia of Palaeoanthropology-Speleology of Southern Greece and met with Dr. Takis Karkanias to explore possibilities for research in southern Greece.
- On 12 and 13 March 2012 the NEO Steering Committee meeting took place at TEMES premises, Athens. After a nomination submitted to NEO Management, National Observatory of Athens was unanimously declared Associated Member of NEO.
- On 21 March Karin Holmgren and Nikos Kalivitis, after the recommendation of Dr. Karkanias, visited Alepotrypa cave at Diros, Lakonia in Peloponnese to inspect the site for potential future research. The site is a subject of extended archeological research and was evaluated to be a significant site for future paleoclimatic research.
- On 22 March a group consisted of Karin Holmgren, Nikos Kalivitis, Nikos Zacharias, University of Peloponnese, Giorgos Maneas, Hellenic Ornithological Society, Xenofon Kappas, "Captain Vassilis" Foundation and members of Pylos Forestry Department and Municipality of Pylos visited Sapienza island in the Ionian sea. The purpose of the trip was to inspect the site and explore the possibilities for research on this unique island, protected by Natura 2000. The main focus was site "Spartolaka", a fossil pollen crater and the surrounding arbutus forest. (Picture 3).

### *Upcoming*

- A Master course of Stockholm University will take place 5-11 May at NEO: "Plant biodiversity and evolution – a global perspective". Catarina Rydin, Department of Botany, SU, will be the instructor of the course.
- The Teachers' Collegium of the Geology Department, Stockholm University will take place at Costa Navarino 5-8 June.
- A joint course between Stockholm University and Cornell University on Ecohydrology will be held during 17-23 June at NEO. Instructors of the course will be Steve Lyon, INK and Todd Walter, Cornell University.
- During the last week of June the first NEO-atmospheric research group workshop will take place at NEO.

### **Visits to and from NEO**

- NEO Director Karin Holmgren was at Messinia from 8 until 23 January and from 13 until 25 March.

- Xenofon Kappas, Director of “Captain Vassilis Foundation“ visited NEO to introduce the foundation to NEO Management.

## Research

- On 31 January & 1 February Martin Finne and Nikos Kalivitis visited Kapsia cave for field work.
- Johan Kleman and Ingmar Borgström visited NEO on March 7 to 12 for field work in southern Peloponnese. During their stay in Greece they visited University of Patras and had meetings with researchers of the Geology department.
- From 27 March to 1 April Charlotte Flodin, Stockholm University visited NEO for research regarding her thesis in Landscape Ecology. During her stay she visited the agricultural office of Trifylia, interviewed local farmers for landscape changes during the last 50 years and conducted field work.
- A pyranometer of University of Patras-Academy of Athens was installed from Andreas Kazantzidis and Vasilis Salamalikis at the NEO-radiometric station providing continuous data since 29 February (Picture 4).



Picture 1: NEO Director Karin Holmgren and NEO station manager Nikos Kalivitis meet the pupils of "Plato" Elementary School during their visit at HELMEPA Junior on 10 January 2012.



Picture 2: Students from Stockholm University take measurements in Lousios river during the second field course held at NEO.



Picture 3: Group photograph during the visit to Sapienza island on 22 March 2012.



Picture 4: Andreas Kazantzidis and Vasilis Salamalikis of University of Patras-Academy of Athens install a new instrument at the NEO radiometric station.

## Appendix 1

### NEO Outreach meetings-January 2012

9/1 National Observatory of Athens, President: Prof. Kanaris Tsinganos

10/1 HELMEPA, Information manager & environmental awareness sector coordinator:

Constantinos Triantafyllou-Visit to Helmepe junior program

11/1 Archelon , Director:Theodoros Benos Palmer, Rescue center coordinator: Pavlos Tsaros,  
Environmental education: Anthoula Togia)

Swedish Institute in Athens, Dr. Arto Penttinen: Director, Dr. Monica Nilsson: Assistant  
director)

Swedish Embassy, Ambassador: Hoakan Malmqvist, Minister Counsellor: Kaarlo Laakso,  
Press Information and cultural officer :Sofia Keramida

12/1 University of Patras, Rector:George Panayiotkis, Physics president:Evangelos Vitoratos

13/1 University of Patras, Geology Department:

- Papatheodorou, Geraga(Lab of marine geology&physical oceanography)
- Leonidas Stamatopoulos (Geomorphology)
- Koukouvelas, Zelidis
- Vasilios Tsikoura (Petrology)
- Lambrakis (Hydrogeology)

Vice Rector for Financial Planning and Development: Anna Roussou

17/1 Municipality of Kyparissia, Mayor:Kostas Kollias

Agricultural office of Trifylia, Director: Antonios Paraskevopoulos

TEI-Kalamata, President: Andreas Kanakis, vice president: Ioannis Kapolos, Professor:Dimitris  
Velissariou

19/1 Head of ancient Messini excavation: Petros Themelis

20/1 Mayor of Pylos: Dimitris Kafantaris,