

# NAVARINO ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATORY

NEO Management

Friday, 13 January 2012

## **NEO NEA #3 (October-December, 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*

- NEO Steering Committee meeting took place on 18 October, at NEO office at Navarino Dunes. Next meeting on 12 and 13 March 2012 in Athens.
- NEO workshop on Wetlands and Ecohydrology, organized by Prof. Gia Destouni, Stockholm University took place at NEO facilities between 20-26 October with 23 participants from Stockholm University, Purdue University, National Observatory of Athens, Royal Institute of Technology, Hellenic Ornithological Society, University of Florida, University of Iowa and TEMES. The workshop was very successful and constructive. In Picture 1 you can see the participants at Sgrapa monastery with Gialova Lagoon at the background. However, during the workshop Gialova Lagoon was at the forefront and it was pointed out that it is ideal for case study and monitoring.
- Stockholm University teachers' meeting organized by Ingmar Borgström and Karin Holmgren took place from 7 to 11 November. 13 teachers participated and additionally 2 from University of Patras - Academy of Athens, 1 from University of Peloponnese and 3 from HOS. The meeting was very successful; all the participants agreed that NEO is an ideal area to carry out student projects in a wide variety of topics. As an outcome, there were 25 proposed in detail projects and 10 additional ones. Once again, Gialova lagoon was highlighted as an ideal area for educational purposes. In Picture 2 the group picture of the participants once again at Sgrapa monastery.
- On 25 November the class of "Atmospheric pollution", Department of Physics, University of Patras supervised by Prof. Andreas Kazantzidis visited NEO facilities for an onsite lecture. The students were introduced to the principles of analytical techniques for

atmospheric pollution measurements and then were shown around the NEO atmospheric research station.

- The NEO Lecture series 2011 was organized with the coordination of University of Peloponnese. On 19 October Gia Destouni talked about "Water research challenges and opportunities for the 21st century" while on 2 November, Karin Holmgren Director of NEO gave a talk with the title "Secrets from the underground-Caves as climate and environmental recorders". It was decided that NEO lectures should be established so that NEO research activities are communicated to the local community and they serve as a communication and awareness tool.

### *Upcoming*

- During January 2012 NEO Director Karin Holmgren and NEO station manager, Nikos Kalivitis will have a series of meetings with local authorities in Messinia, academic and research institutions in Athens and Peloponnese and NGOs to present NEO initiative and explore the possibilities of research and educational collaborations.
- The first lectures of NEO Lecture series 2012 are now scheduled. Prof. Sara Cousins, Stockholm University will talk about "How landscape patterns influence species diversity" on 1 February 2012 and the next talk will be given by Prof. Alasdair Skelton, Stockholm University titled "How do mountains change Earth's climate?" on 8 February 2012. In Picture 3 you can see the poster announcing the lectures.
- The second Student Field Course at NEO is planned for February 2–8, 2012. The course chief instructor will be Ingmar Borgström and it is expected that 55 students from Stockholm University will attend the course.
- Parallel to the field course there will be organized the INK Master's Level Course: Landscape Ecology - Theory and Design that will partly take place at NEO. Within the course, the way landscape changes affect ecosystems and species distributions will be studied. Especially, emphasis will be given to the conservation of species diversity in changing environments. A major part of the course is to individually design and carry out a landscape ecological study. Responsible for the course will be Prof. Sara Cousins.

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

- From 2 to 7 October Palaiologos Palaiologou, PhD candidate of University the Aegean, visited NEO for field work. The aim was to create a geographical data base for fire protection applications.
- NEO Director Karin Holmgren was at Messinia from 15 October until 11 November and will be at NEO again from 8 until 23 January and 11 until 23 March.

### **Research**

- On 7 & 8 October Martin Finne and Nikos Kalivitis visited Kapsia cave for field work. Samples were collected and additionally two meteorological stations were installed, one

in the cave and one directly outside of it in order to see changes in the cave's atmosphere. Next visit is scheduled for 31 January.

- Josefien Delrue, Department of Physical Geography and Quaternary Geology, Stockholm University, visited Messinia during the second week of November to do survey on the site.
- A detailed overview of all the research activities that took place in 2011 will be published in the 2012 Annual Report released in March.



Picture 1: Group photo of the participants at the Wetlands and Ecohydrology workshop that took place at NEO between 20-26 October, 2011.



Picture 2: Group photo of the participants at the teachers' meeting that took place at NEO from 7 to 11 November, 2011.

## NEO Lecture Series 2012

**Prof. Sara Cousins**  
Department of Physical Geography  
and Quaternary Geology  
Stockholm University  
"How landscape patterns influence  
species diversity"  
Wednesday, 1 February 2012 - 18:00



**Prof. Alasdair Skelton**  
Department of Geological Sciences  
Stockholm University  
"How do mountains change  
Earth's climate? "  
Wednesday, 8 February 2012 - 18:00

The lectures will be given in the amphitheater of University of the Peloponnese at Kalamata and are Open to the General Public. Language: English

in coordination with

Laboratory of Archaeometry  
Department of History, Archaeology and Cultural Resources Management  
University of Peloponnese



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Picture 3: The announcement of NEO Lecture Series 2012