



EUROPEAN
FEDERATION
OF CITY FARMS

Newsletter

4. 2011

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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The EFCF is a member of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

**Annual General Meeting (AGM)
of the EFCF:
30 March – 1 April 2012
in Lanaken, Belgium**



The AGM 2012 will be held at Pietersheim City Farm in Lanaken, Belgium. The program will include 'seeing is believing visits'. More details will be on website soon.

**EFCF Conference in Germany
Friday 7th - Monday 10th
September 2012**

The German Federation is happy to announce that we will be hosting next years conference in the north of



Germany – in Lübeck!

The Project "Red Rooster" (German: Der Rote Hahn: <http://www.bauspielplatz-roterhahn.de>) will be our main focus. They specialised in the Viking Era, which means we have a lot to see!

...Re-constructions of Viking long-houses, old craft-work and a touch of medieval atmosphere...

As far as we have planned it, we'll be staying at the youth hostel for Friday evening to have a "meet and greet" as well as dinner. Also planned for the Friday evening is a session with **Bob Hughes** (UK, Play Education, <http://www.playeducation.com/>) who is a well known practitioner and theorist in the "children have a right to play" scene ~ he has published many books, founded projects and has recently given a talk

about his work experience at the IPA conference in Cardiff and the PATH conference in London. We are delighted that we could win Bob for the weekend, since we had some fruitful exchanges at both conferences!

Then on Saturday we'll visit a farm in Kiel and EFCF members will have their General Meeting. Everyone else can be free to explore Luebeck which is a lovely little city!

Sunday will bring a medieval market at the "Red Rooster" with lots of crafting like forging and other wonderful, nearly forgotten, craftsmanship.

On Monday we've planned a concluding session as well as a possible visit to one of Hamburg's projects (for those who'll fly into Hamburg anyway or like to see a bit more!)

Invitations will be sent out early next year. We are looking forward to seeing you in Lübeck!!!

**5th European Seminar on
AgroBiodiversity
22 – 25 September 2011
Dimitrovgrad, Serbia**

SAVE Foundation (Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe) held her Annual General Meeting in Dimitrovgrad in Serbia from 22-25 September, together with the 5th European Seminar on AgroBiodiversity. The theme was Preservation or Adaption?-Conservation in the face of a changing environment". About 40 delegates, most of them coming from eastern European countries, took part in an interesting programme. Pauline Wolters did a PowerPoint Presentation about education, which can be downloaded from www.cityfarms.org Research & Development (2 papers).

Th 5th European Seminar, co-organised by the SAVE network partner Natura Balkanika, www.balkanika-crd.org was a great opportunity to see the beautiful landscape and interesting culture of the area Stara Planina Nature Park www.staraplanina.org with the rare breed farms and the high mountain pastures as well as networking with members and other people committed to the conservation of agrobiodiversity. The Regional Fair of Balkan AgroBiodiversity (Rare Breeds Exhibition) took place on the 23rd September and was visited by the participants of the annual meeting. The fair provided a good opportunity to experience the local culture through music, dance, food and handicrafts. There were also breeds on display and the annual meeting participants were able to ask questions to the breeders.



Shepherd dogs to herd



shepherd dogs to protect against bears and wolves



starting to associate with sheep and goats at an early age...

The Stara Planina Nature Park (1.114 km²) was established in 1997 as the biggest Serbian protected territory. It was proclaimed as a Peace Park between Serbia and Bulgaria in 1996. The park is one of the richest plant areas of Serbia, with about 1,190 plant

and 51 moss species or 34 % of the nationally identified plant species. Until World War II a big proportion of the park landscape was shaped by grazing practices of local and nomadic tribes, breeding more than 300,000 sheep (Pirot Zackel and Karakachan Sheep).



herd of goats



Busha Cattle

Then the state encouraged intensification of the system that led to over-grazing in lower elevation grasslands and under-grazing or abandonment of higher elevation grasslands.

Since 2002 there are serious attempts to increase the chances for survival of local endangered breeds.

This involves local farmers, the 'Natura Balkanika' Nature society, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, SAVE foundation, the Regional environmental Center and private investors.

Now the Stara Planina Nature Park is one of the Serbian most important centers of in-situ on farm conservation of autochthonous endangered breeds: Domestic Mountain Pony, Balkan donkey, Busha Cattle, Pirot Zackel sheep, Karakachan Sheep, Bardoka sheep, Balkan goat and Mangalitza Pig.



Sergej Ivanov dr vet med, Technical Support Team Leader Transitional Agriculture Reform Project of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management organized the conference.

More information about the seminar:
<http://www.save-foundation.net/>

New campaign in the Netherlands: 'Every city farm sustainable'



More and more local and national governments recognize that city farms and community gardens play an important role in showing practical examples of sustainability because they attract many visitors.

Nature organisations, city farm federations and other NGO's have joined forces to campaign for more sustainability by organizing events and activities on city farms and in gardens, thus creating more than 400 'hotspots' for sustainability communication!

German Federation of City Farms and Activity Playgrounds in 'East London Play Conference'

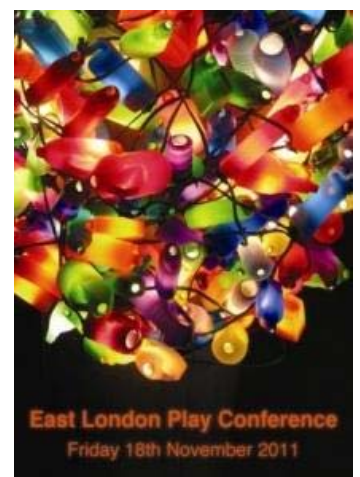


Melanie Kinghan

Melanie Kinghan was invited to present the DVD "Playing for Life" in this year's "East London Play Conference" on 18 November. Alongside Bob Hughes from "Play Education" and other presenters, Melanie showed the German Federation's latest DVD about City Farms and Adventure Playgrounds in Germany. Melanie aims to show the recently translated DVD to as many people as possible all over Europe to talk about the wide range of possibilities of working with children on farms and playgrounds in Germany. Not only to introduce the so called "open concept" which is, in a way, unique to Germany - but also to show the audience that wilderness play, metal work and mud-experiences are possible in a safe and pedagogically supervised environment!

Under the conference motto "Working together for play" (see Play Association Tower Hamlets for more details www.playtowerhamlets.org.uk) the film was shown to discuss the possibility of using some of these ideas on UK City Farms and Playgrounds. In order to get the legal side of this right. Melanie got support from Phil Doyle (PLAYLINK www.playlink.org) who is an expert on legal advice in the area of (wilderness) play.

Melanie is a member of the advisory board of the German Federation (BdJA), EFCF Board Member and works as a freelancer in many parts of Europe. She lives with her family in Oxford, UK.



**New address
Bund der Jugendfarmen und
Aktivspielplätze e.V.**



**Bund der Jugendfarmen
und Aktivspielplätze e.V.
Balinger Strasse 15
70567 Stuttgart**

The Calthorp Project

The Calthorp Project, “an inner city oasis – a community garden and centre where people grow and learn together taking care of each other and the environment.”



The EFCF Board held a meeting in the Calthorp Project in London on 2 and 3 December 2011

The Calthorpe Project is a 1.2 acre garden oasis on Grays Inn Rd in the neighbourhood of St.Pancras/King's Cross station in London. It is a registered charity providing a range of services and facilities for 2000 people annually and receiving a further 30,000 garden visits. Families with young children mostly living in flats with no gardens meet and learn together through play. Holiday, after-school and weekend programmes provide out door, creative and social activities for children (Kings Cross has a higher than the national average number of children under 16).



The project was awarded a Growing Schools Garden award for work with local primary schools. Camden Council has financially supported the project for 30 years but due to Government cuts they are no longer in a position to do so. Therefore there is a need to raise £80,000 to keep the project afloat.



Calthorp garden

The volunteer and training programme helps people learn new skills, provides opportunity for social interaction and out door exercise as well as offering horticultural training for adults with learning difficulties. Environmental and food growing sessions encourage and develop awareness of organic methods and composting. Bangladeshi women and older people as well as families participate growing their own food. The recently refurbished 5-a-side pitch provides programmes to improve health and well-being for young people as well as generating vital revenue from hiring. Income also comes from room hire and birthday parties for children aged 10 years and under.



Calthorp path



5-a side pitch, climbing 'risk' structure, clay oven

During opening hours there are opportunities for children to carry out art work such as painting, drawing, cutting and pasting or Playdoh. There are also puzzles, games, musical instruments and a variety of creative toys. There is a home play corner with dressing-up clothes for role play. There are also toys and facilities for babies. For families there are regular recreational and educational trips which could include trips to the seaside, theatre, and National parks etc. The Under 5's drop-in enables families and carers of children under 5 to meet and interact while their children learn through play.

The project wants to encourage children and young people to live a healthy lifestyle through physical activity and healthy eating. To educate and enable them to use their leisure time in a positive way.

It is a 'bedrock' style climbing structure that introduces 'Risky Play'. In the organic food growing area, children can grow produce food from seed, cultivate and harvest the food to cook in the kitchen. Every Friday a group of senior Latin-American people work in the garden and cook a lunch that always includes some of the harvested vegetables.

The Calthorp project organizes cooking classes, homeopathic clinics, Latin Dance for children, Bengali Music Group, Taoist Tai Chi, Mother and baby breastfeeding support group, Nia- whole body workout, a Singing Group, a clothes making class, baby yoga, Spanish Language for children and childrens activity club for children under 14 where parents are also welcome. Activities include gardening, sports, arts and crafts, cooking and outings.

Staff consists of 3 fulltime and 3 part-time workers, apart from sessional workers. They are assisted by 35 – 40 volunteers. People usually commit to a minimum of two hours per week.

<http://www.calthorpeproject.org.uk>



Map Calthorp project

City farms and Freedom Food

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) and the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG) in the UK have worked together to make available the Freedom Food standards to



city farms to cover all livestock during site inspection. Member City Farms are asked to register for assessment. The FCFCG objectives are to:

1. Further raise the standards of animal welfare on city farms
2. Provide supportive services to FCFCG members to help raise animal welfare standards
3. Demonstrate animal welfare standards to the general public/media
4. Implement an external verifiable system of assessment.

Freedom Food has agreed to provide an annual on-site assessment of the animal welfare standards of each city farm, to cover all types of livestock reared, and to issue a welfare assessment certificate to confirm the standard which the city farm may use for evidence and publicity purposes. A template has been developed by the FCFCG and approved by Freedom Food, for city farms to store all the relevant information needed to manage a good animal health plan.

More information:

ian@farmgarden.org.uk

www.rspca.org.uk/freedomfood

Interesting websites

www.ewwr.eu

The European Week for Waste Reduction is a 3 year project supported by the LIFE+ Programme of the European Commission until 2011. On the database of actions of the European Week for Waste Reduction you will find a collection of awareness raising actions on waste prevention implemented during the various editions of the EWWR by Project Developers (Administrations, Associations, Business, Education establishments, Others).

EFCF goes Facebook!

www.facebook.com/europeanfederationcityfarms

Join and like us on our new facebook page and help us collect donations for upcoming projects!

Read about the latest "Good Practice" examples and find our newsletter with just one click!

Clever ideas

If you come across a clever idea or if you had a brilliant idea yourself, take a photograph and e-mail it to Hans Jörg Lange (bdja@bdja.org) or to Pauline Wolters (pwolters@planet.nl).



Kilo restaurant

Pauline Wolters, EFCF Board Member, on holiday in Brazil, experienced the 'kilo restaurant'. It works like a regular self-service restaurant, with the difference that the food is weighed and you pay per gramme (or per kilo). In this way no food goes to waste. It appears that Brasil is the only country in the world with this concept. Maybe a good idea for city farm restaurants?

Step into a petting corner without letting the goats out



**Merry
Christmas
and a happy
New Year !**