

Green Belt Work-Camp Northern Weinviertel



15th – 22nd September 2019

Description: The dry grasslands of the so called “Weinviertler Klippenzone” in the European Green Belt along the border between Austria and Czech Republic are habitat of a lot of different rare plants and animal species. To maintain these habitats and to avoid invasion of bushes into the grasslands it is necessary to establish regular management. Biotope maintenance like mowing or removing bushes or neophytes will be implemented on rupicolous or steppic grasslands in protected areas - situated amidst a beautiful wine-growing landscape. This helps to preserve rare species like the critically endangered Feather Grass (*Stipa tirsia*) or the butterfly Mountain Alcon Blue (*Phengaris rebeli*).

Type of Work: International and local volunteers will help mowing steep meadows and remove bushes from dry rocky grasslands, that are threatened to be over grown by bushes and trees. So they will contribute actively to preserve endangered species. Work will be physical (mowing, raking, cutting bushes) and will last for about 5 - 6 hours every day.

Study Theme: The attendants will learn about plants and animals and about ecological problems in the area. Some ecological initiatives and protected areas along the Green Belt will be presented and possibilities of management will be discussed. They will hear something about wine-production, visit an old castle-ruin and walk along the former Iron Curtain. Additional free-time activities like barbecue are planned, depending on the weather.

Accommodation: We will live in a big room at a Camping-Site in the village of Poysdorf. Please bring your sleeping bag and sleeping mat, as we will sleep on the floor. If you bring a tent, it is also possible to sleep outside. Most of the time, we will cook for ourselves (breakfast and dinner). Warm and weatherproof clothes and boots are strongly recommended.

Organisation: | naturschutzbund nÖ | (Austrian League for Nature Conservation – Lower Austria) is an environmental NGO which supports and maintains protected areas in the region. It wants to contribute to conservation of species and ecosystems in Lower Austria.

The work-camp is supported by the local communities of Poysdorf, Staatz, Drasenhofen, Falkenstein and Wildendürnbach.

This project, funded by the EU and the Provincial Government of Lower Austria, will contribute to the management of the nature preserve and is a part of the Lower Austrian network of protected areas.

Information and Registration:

Naturschutzbund NÖ: www.noe-naturschutzbund.at | noe@naturschutzbund.at

SCI-International: <https://workcamps.sci.ngo/icamps/AT-SCI/en/camp-details/camp-13004.html>

SCI-Austria: www.sci.or.at/