







GLOBAL NATUREFRIENDS DAYS

2023











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INTRODUCTION

Around 16 September, the founding day of the Naturefriends movement, we try to make our common ideals known, set an example of solidarity, explain the diversity and global reach of the movement, present best practices and provide an opportunity to share experiences.

The Global Naturefriends Days 2023 were held from September 8 to September 17, with the theme "Nature and Solidarity".

We are delighted and proud that many Naturefriends groups from different countries celebrated the Global Naturefriends Days with various inspiring meetings and actions. From hiking to litter picking, Naturefriends from Greece, Belgium, Austria, Italy and Romania have celebrated the value of our movement.

Three selected projects were awarded by the NFI Board: Naturefriends Greece, Naturefriends Arad &Timisoara, Romania and Naturefriends Vienna, Austria. You can read about their activities in detail in this report.

We would like to thank all our members for their commitment and dedication to spreading the values of Naturefriends in their communities and around the world!



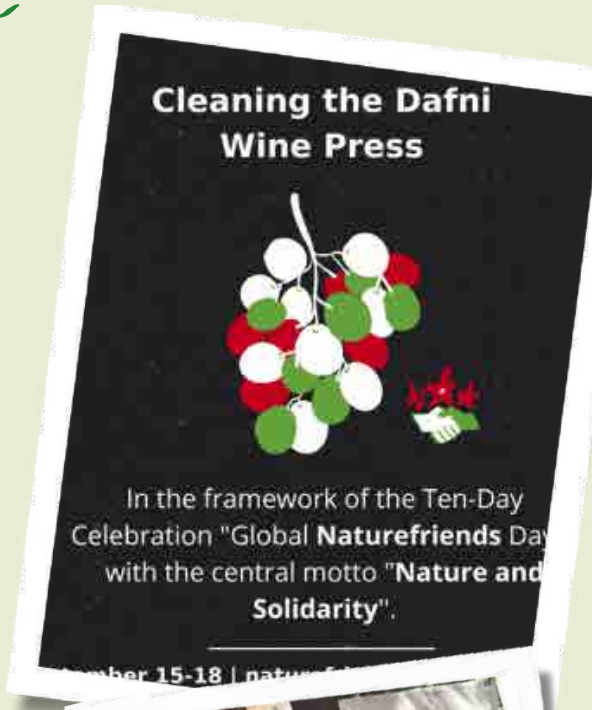
See the video: https://fb.watch/nTdIusrwgG/

(c) Photos und Video: Elena Teutsch

NATUREFRIENDS GREECE

Cleaning of the Dafni Wine Press

This activity helped us to get prepared for our central activity for 2023, the Wine Festival of Dafni.



Publication - Informational Booklet

To celebrate the 15 years of NFGR activities, actions and constant presence.





Publication - Informational Booklet

About the history of Naturefriends International. With the title "125 +3 Years Naturefriends (1895 – 2023)", this publication aims to provide information about Naturefriends history though the time, their activities, their political identity and their connection with solidarity.





(c) Photos: Naturefriends Greece

Dafni Wine Festival



An initiative of NFGR, Dafni Wine Festival (DWF) was supported by two local organizations and the Municipality of Chaidari (local government).

During the DWF, short presentations and speeches about the Naturefriends movement and sustainable tourism took place. More than 200 people participated, danced traditional dances and developed fruitful dialogue.

Dafni Wine Festival started at 1953, being a great economic and touristic event not only for the region where Naturefriends Greece are based but for the whole country. Indicative, between the years 1957 - 1960, visitors have been more than 100.000 in the period between August 15th and September 15th.
Gradually, the event degenerated and in 1983 stopped permanently.

With this initiative, NFGR attempted to revive the event while giving it a new identity focusing on sustainability. Our goal was to organize a remembrance of the historical DWF. Thus we included exhibitional material while arranging a small traditional celebration.

Watch the video of the action: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8rEuDRa6Nc



Text: Naturefriends Greece

(c) Photos: Naturefriends Greece

NATUREFRIENDS AARSCHOT, BELGIUM

Nature Experience Days

During the weekend of 9 and 10 September, the ATB - De Natuurvrienden Aarschot organised a new activity, the 'Nature Experience Days'.

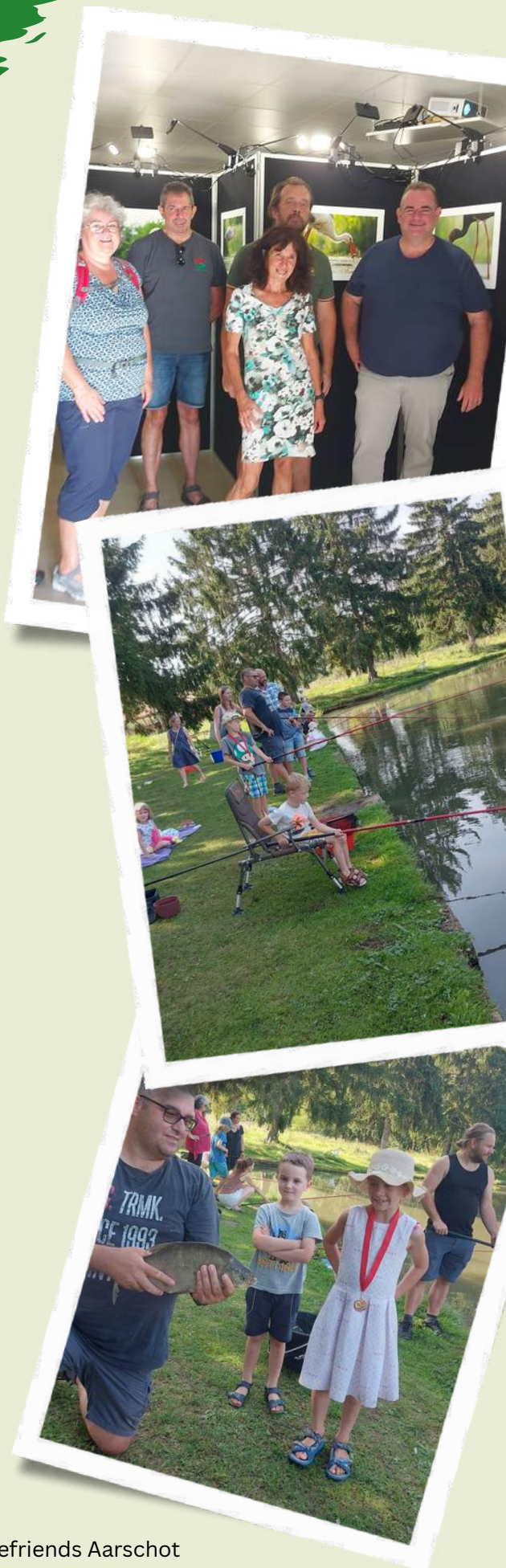
They opened with a unique nature photoexhibition by Emmy Deryck.
Educational children's tours and a competition in which the favourite animal was chosen as a symbol for the upcoming nature learning trail.

For those who wanted to be more active, there was a beautiful walking route that led them along the pond, the Demer and its meadows. Forester Gert Verbruggen of the Nature and Forest Agency provided expert guidance, and together with a fellow expert in bats, he led a well-filled group in the evening in search of bats and moths.

The late evening of this first day ended with a demonstration by the Stargazing Society Helios Averbode, where once again a large group of people could enjoy a unique view of Saturn, among others.

Besides the evening walk and the stargazing evening, there was another activity that stood out. Namely learning angling for kids. The day ended as it began, namely on the cosy terrace of Schoonhof's tavern.

Text: Naturefriends Aarschot



(c) Photos: Naturefriends Aarschot

NATUREFRIENDS VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Naturefriends Cleanup Day

For children and young people around the topic of microplastics and littering



(c) Sandra Liebig

Early in the morning, two school classes from MS Kagran, a secondary school with a focus on sports, social issues and ecology & sustainability, met at the Naturefriends Leisure Centre Alte Donau in Vienna. After a short introduction of the participants, the NFI, the association "Green Steps" and the adventure team "Into.Wild", there was a short introduction to the waste collection campaign. Equipped with the "Zrucksackln" of the NF Austria, gloves and gripping pliers, we got started.

The pupils were divided into two collection routes and energetically and enthusiastically cleared the surroundings of rubbish. Together they collected plastic bottles, cans, packaging materials and other rubbish that could be found on the shore, on the meadows and in the bushes.

The routes gradually led us to the Naturefriends Regional Office Vienna, where at the car park, with the help of "Green Steps", the collected rubbish was sorted according to the respective rubbish categories (metal, plastic, glass, paper and residual waste), and weighed. The incredible amount of 17 kg was collected. Afterwards, the children had to choose a few items and think about why they did not make it into the rubbish bin.



(c) Sandra Liebig

The supervisors and teaching staff played an important role in organising and supervising the pupils during the Cleanup Day. They explained the connection between pollution and its impact on wildlife and water quality.

After the litter collection, a healthy snack was served to all participants.

Afterwards, the programme continued with film clips of the film "One Way Boat" by Into.Wild, who presented their environmental activist project to the pupils about their journey along the Danube with their self-built floating body Wilma. The children were made aware of how valuable the resource water is and how important the protection of flowing waters is through the film and the subsequent question and answer session.

Finally, the pupils were allowed to get to know the sport of climbing during a trial climbing activity. With professionally trained staff from the Vienna Climbing Hall, the children had their first experience on the climbing walls.



(c) Sandra Liebig



(c) Alexander Mann

All in all, Cleanup Day was a successful and educational day where the pupils not only understood the importance of environmental protection, but also actively contributed to making the environment cleaner and more beautiful.

Such actions are crucial to promote environmental awareness in the young generation and have a positive impact on the environment.

Text: Sandra Liebig

NATUREFRIENDS ARAD, ROMANIA



Nature and Culture Days

The section based in Arad had two different activities, which complement each other, one focused on hiking in nature, the other on a predominantly cultural and cooperative dimension.

The first was organized, together with our members from Albac, in the Western Carpathians, at Detunata Goală, on a less known route, currently being marked, an action in which we were involved as volunteers. The concrete steps that still need to be taken in order for the cabin in Albac to be integrated into the Naturefriends International circuit were discussed.

The second activity consisted in reuniting, for the first time at the section level, the Naturefriends from Arad and Timișoara, even if there have been other collaborations at the individual level. This year, Timișoara became the European Cultural Capital, multi-ethnic par excellence, so, through a guided tour, organized by Ciprian Costa Trăilă, we managed to get to know as well as possible the history, architecture, defining events that determined the choice of the city for this dignity. The heroism of the inhabitants of this city, the first to protest risking their lives in 1989, determined the fall of communism in Romania.



The activities of Naturefriends in Romania were numerous throughout the year.
As an attitude, solidarity with war refugees always remains as a red thread. For example, teacher Maria Marieta Gavra volunteered, twice a week, for initiation courses in Romanian for mothers and children from Ukraine, who tried to integrate into Romanian society. The members of the sections in Arad and Timișoara were involved in donating money, goods and, together with other NGOs, in projects for children from Ukraine.

(c) Naturefriends Romania

Text: Maria Marieta Gavra

GIAN GRAN PINO

Festival Terra Lenta - Slow Earth

From 22 to 24 September, the Terra Lenta Festival took place in Cecina (LI), Italy, organised among others together with the Cecina affiliate Gian-Gio and part of the IYNF festival on activism for social-ecological diversity.

It was a celebration of nature, society and the economic changes we are striving to make for our planet, and was aimed at everyone who wants to explore our extraordinarily complex system that links every aspect of our lives to sustainability.

Over three days, the multidisciplinary event included sustainable development workshops, roundtables and discussions on ecosystems, climate, new economic models, energy, tourism, social, inclusion, biodiversity, collaboration, collaborative systems and diversity.





(c) Photos and video: @siamo_dieci / Festival Terra Lenta

We reflected on how to maintain and fight for a planet with a sustainable rhythm. The festival was an opportunity to explore and educate a new systematic way of living in the ecosystems that surround us, in order to preserve them and enable their renewal.

Special guests, educational games, documentaries and the rhythm of the Burkinabe musical tradition enlivened the event.

The event concluded with a trekking in the northern pine forest nature reserve il Tombolo archaeological excavations Vada white beaches.







See the video of the activity: https://www.instagram.com/reel/CyQtBkjo8MQ/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==

(c) Photos and video: @siamo_dieci / Festival Terra Lenta

NATUREFRIENDS TIMIȘOARA, ROMANIA

Culture Day in Timișoara & trip to Austria

Naturefriends Timișoara celebrated Global Naturefriends with two different activities.

A joint cultural activity with Naturefriends Arad, namely exploring Timișoara, the European Capital of Culture 2023, through a guided tour.

The Global Naturefriends Days were continued with a trip to Austria. They celebrated with hikes and climbs on the Rax and Hohe Wand in Lower Austria and stayed overnight at the Weichtalhaus and Waxriegelhaus, two Naturefriends houses in Austria.

Ciprian Costa Traila, President of Naturefriends Romania, made a video of the celebrations, which you can watch here: https://naturefriends.sharepoint.com/:v:/s/NFICloud/EUiR3rAKP39Itxng9Z6ll_gBr4gtTAXdQZZO4PRs0b4fwQ?e=W8rzQ8









(c) Photos: Naturefriends Timisoara