

# **GEA NORVEGICA GEOPARK**

Progress report, September 2007 – March 2008

The last six months has been very active for Gea Norvegica Geopark. Most of the current activity is focussed on development and preparation for the 2008 season beginning in May. For the first time we have been operating with a full staff.

## **1. Current situation.**

- Staff: Four full time positions, (one on maternity leave one year from last september) and two part time positions.
- Five active geopark committees, (Tourist map production, Education, Tourism, Local Enterprises innovation, Attraction development). Each group meets once a month.
- The board has held five meetings.
- One board of representatives meeting (12 politicians representing the geopark owners)
- A new Web site is under construction for launch in May.

## **2. EGN-activities / International networking**

- EGN-meeting Scotland + conference
- Visit to Bergstrasse-Odenwald Geopark with 20 teachers.
- Dublin, Interreg meeting NWE IVB

## **3. A selection of Geopark events**

- Guided tour in the geopark with the administration of the Telemark county council (appr. 200 persons)
- Local partner meetings at Jomfruland, Ulefoss and Langøy.
- Geopark presentation for the principals of all schools in the Geopark area.
- Several Geopark presentations for school teachers and various organizations.
- Presentation for Geoforum (people working with mapping and GIS in the Southern Norway)
- Several field events the public, schools and various organizations.

## **4. IGC and YIPE**

- Member of the national YIPE committee. Attended several meetings.
- Planning of the “Earth Heritage and Society” symposium at the IGC in Oslo in August.

## **5. Attraction development**

- One geopark tourist map is being prepared for printing this spring.
- Two geological maps (quaternary geology and bedrock) are also prepared for printing this spring.
- Several new geopark pamphlets and brochures (printed and in prep.).
- Cooperation with the Norwegian road authorities for production of large “Geopark Entrance Gate Panels” to be erected along the European highway and other major roads through the geopark.

- New panels are in production and will be erected at many of our geopark attractions throughout the year. All attractions will successively be “officially opened” with various ceremonies.
- Stone pavement at Stavern square using local moraine cobbles. Cooperation with the local organization “Friends of old Stavern”.
- Our annual Geopark workshop was held in Stavern in February. This meeting lasts for two days and includes all committees, the geopark administration, member of the geopark board and others. This meeting was the kick-off for all our arrangements during the 2008 season.

Mona, Sven and Ingeborg.