

European Geoparks Week 2008

Report

Name of Geopark: **Geopark Harz . Braunschweiger Land . Ostfalen**
Dates of Geoparks week: **26.05. – 07.06.08**
Contact person: **Dr. Henning Zellmer**

1. Standard information:

- number of activities/events held in Geoparks week	10
- number of press releases announcing Geoparks week events	5
- number of printed copies for program flyer/brochure/posters	16.000
- total number of visitors/participants	about 600

2. Description of the Geoparks Week 2008:

The following field trips were special offers for the European Geopark Week:

- Field trip to the Gypsum opencast mine "Mehholz" and to the Quarry "Kuhberg / Sachsenstein with the second administrative officer of the district, K. Liebing.
- Field trip to the Triassic Crinoid-Limestone near Evessen / Elm: We looked for crinoids, mussels and sharks in the former quarry "Am Markmorgen".
- Field trip to the Moor of the central Harz Mountains near Sankt Andreasberg: A guided tour to the moor land around Oderbrück and the Bodebruchmoor with a great view to the whole moor area.
- A Geological hike to the Southern Oderwald: On this field trip the rock formation of the Southern Oderwald (Cretaceous sandstones, clays, marls and limestones ranging from a terrestrial to a marine sediment facies) has been explored. Other topics were the local flora and the former castle of Gielde.
- Geological and mineralogical field trip to the Greywacke-Quarry Rieder. We visited the Devonian greywacke with fossil plants, basalt dikes, Pillow lavas and black shales.
- A Geological Hike through the „Asse“: We explored the "Asse" near Wolfenbüttel and its geological structure. We visited the typical triassic rocks „Muschelkalk" and „Rogenstein", the Bismarck-Tower, the Asse Castle and the rare flora of the dry limestone-soils.

Additionally there were two Information days:

- The Gypsum factory Kutzhütte in Walkenried
- Exhibition about the Imperial Palace of Werla in Werlaburgdorf. Opening with the chief administrative officer of the district, J. Röhm.

Some special Geopark Week events were:

- The Harzmuseum Wernigerode offered the special event: Geology for Kids – Rocks: the substance of the earth: Kids learned much about the different rocks and their typical properties, had a look at the common Harz rocks in the “geological window” of the „mineral canyon“, and heard about the evolution of the Harz Mountains.
- Geology und Cooking: Rocks and treasures – for gourmets: it was a journey back in time to the famous rock places of the Harz Mountains e.g. the High Cliff near the Goethe-Place. We had a look at the relationship between rocks, soils, flora and fauna in the National Park Harz. On a trip to the old silver mine Samson we explored the mining of former centuries and saw a film about the evolution of the Harz Mountains. Finally we had a gourmet dinner e.g. with meals grilled on a hot stone and a pudding volcano!

3. Photos:

