

## LESVOS PETRIFIED FOREST - GREECE



*Scouting Sunrise (July 31 – August 1, 2007)*

The Lesvos Petrified Forest European Geopark continued the activities of promoting earth heritage and geotourism development, protecting geotopes and conserving the fossils of the Petrified Forest - Natural monument. One of the main activities of the year 2007 was the organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Intensive Course on Geoparks, under the auspices of UNESCO during September 2007 in Lesvos Geopark. It was organized in collaboration with Aegean University, EGN and the IAG WG Geomorphosites with the financial support of LEADER+.

### *Other highlights of the year included:*

- Great efforts towards promotion of Earth heritage and geotourism in Europe have been made by EGN. The Lesvos Petrified Forest was lead partner of LEADER + project "GEO PARKS: Ideal destination for alternative tourism and educational activities in rural areas", with the participation of 8 European Geoparks
- Exchange of exhibitions with European Geopark Naturtejo Portugal who organized the exhibition "From trilobites to man".
- European Geoparks Week: Various events were organized from the 18<sup>th</sup> of May until the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, including presentation the European Geoparks Network and its members, guided tours in the Petrified forest parks, exhibitions, photo and painting competition, projection of documentaries and educational programs.
- 87.000 people were visited the Museum and the Petrified Forest parks. 3.521 pupils participated in the educational programmes
- 17 events have been organized during the Geopark's summer festival 2007 under the title "Earth Feast", including lectures, theatrical plays, traditional music, photo and painting exhibitions, book presentations, film screening and open air activities. Among them the Velvet volcano festival in July attracted young crowd with video art exhibition and Athens new stage rock bands. Another event was the celebration of 100 years of Scouts in the Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark
- 21 publications of various sizes from leaflets to coffee table books have been printed during the year. Many promotional activities including participation in International Tourism fairs.

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