

Hi friends,

Hi friends, this is the November Newsletter but we are starting with some past and some forthcoming events in early December.

FOR THE NATURE COALITION INFORMATION NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2009



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In the first week of this year's last month we shall enjoy two exclusively interesting film festivals:

FILM FESTIVALS

"Green cinema: ecological film week in Sofia" – film performances followed by discussions on awarded films from the European ecological festival "Green Wave - 21 century". The performances will take place from **30 November to 6 December**, from 17:30 to 20:00. Venue: the Czech Centre, Lilac Hall, 100 Rakovski Blvd., Sofia. Free entrance! <http://forthenature.org/news/1096/>.

And one more free entrance fest – "Challenge Days". For the fifth time in a row at the Dom na Kinoto (Cinema House), Sofia, the traditional "Challenge Days" were carried out. You can see the festival program here: <http://forthenature.org/news/1153/>. Several consecutive evenings important events were presented having taken place under and above the ground in 2009. The saying goes that thousand mile long voyages start with just a step. Today just a photo, thought, idea or story by a friend can take you to unexpected places and make you keen on something that many would consider dangerous or unreasonable. This year's program was again focused mainly on the nature protection campaigns of the For the Nature Coalition, Citizens for Rila, the eco-centers in Bulgaria ...

WEEKLY CIVIL PRESENCE FOR RILA

For those of you who feel their activeness a bit rusty: We invite you to the Weekly Civil Presence for Rila and Natura 2000 in front of the Council of Ministers - **action 3** – on Wednesday, **9 December 2009 at 9:15 a.m.** when we shall try to hand to the ministers tens of thousands individual letters – petitions by citizens insisting on discontinuation of the operation of Panichishte chair-lift which is bringing about "salty" euro-fines for all of us.

Following a two-year campaigning by thousands of citizens the European Commission opened another infringement procedure against the Bulgarian government for infringements of the European law – this time regarding Rila. The other news is that our



ministers and institutions continue to negate the issue about the unlawful lifts in Panichishte and Kartala which makes our renewed presence in front of the Council of Ministers indispensable!

Information and a rich gallery of photos from the first two actions can be found on our website:

<http://forthenature.org/news/1166/>, <http://forthenature.org/gallery/224/>, <http://forthenature.org/gallery/221/>.

HOPENHAGEN

As a whole, December will be dominated by the climate change and global summit in Copenhagen. In Bulgaria one of the series of events that are going to take place in parallel to the negotiations in Copenhagen is under the slogan "The world gathers together, so do we!" The date 12 December is the world day of climate change fight. More information here: <http://forthenature.org/actions/218/>.

Between 7 and 18 December leaders from 192 countries will come together in Copenhagen, one of the "greenest" cities in the world in order to participate in the UN Conference on climate change. This is the most important convent of its kind in the last decade and perhaps our last chance to arrive at an effective and responsible plan for decreasing the disastrous carbon emissions. The world is preparing for the summit in Copenhagen – so does Bulgaria! Come candle in hand on 12 December at 17:30 (Saturday) to Lovers' Bridge so that we can show that we do care about our planet. All needed for the success of the vigil is ... a few people: -). It will be funny, easy and will cost really nothing (except for a candle and about an hour of your time). Here is

the list of all forthcoming events related to this month focus on climate change: <http://forthenature.org/news/1175/>.

So, these are the several forthcoming events that will take place in the first half of the running month; as concerns what is going to happen around the festive days you have to look at our site – you know, of course, that there, on a daily basis, we publish tens of news and events:)

Following is an overview of the past month – apology for the prevailing bad news - it depends on us all what further news are be coming next.

First, briefly on something that does not concern nature protection but is quite embarrassing. It's about the freedom of speech, the qualitative and unbiased media, or to better specify it - about the fact that pretty soon all of that will be just history for Bulgaria. The last minutes of Re:tv: <http://forthenature.org/news/1165/> - on the whole, we have witnessed recently the disappearing and taking over of independent media and often we have faced information blackout or media misrepresentation, but still there are some information channels of quality left and we do hope that they will last.

Now let's have some more specialized ecological subject-matter...

The construction of unlawful ski runs by the Seven Rila Lakes continues

As per photo material provided to For the Nature Coalition by students of Forest Technical University (<http://forthenature.org/gallery/223/>).

The pictures reveal:

1. Destroyed during the last winter dwarf pines and Macedonian pines (*Pinus Peuce Griseb*) in Rila National Park by the snow-

stamping machines of "Rila Sport" which unlawfully trampled terrains in the protected area.

2. Macedonian pine, spruce and dwarf pine forests are cut down in mass with a view to enlarging the ski run. The stumps of cut trees are covered by greensward in order to hide the traces.

3. All stumps are removed away of the terrain by motor cutters and excavators.

4. The layout of the future ski run is leveled up by bulldozer.

All activities have been carried out without any permits under the Biodiversity Law, Environment Law, Law on Forests and Law on Territorial Planning. There are data about offences of economic character.



AWARD FOR THE DETECTION OF A BEAR MURDER

Nature protection activists announced award for the detection of a bear murder: <http://forthenature.org/news/1156/>. Every year about 40-50 bears get killed but not in this demonstrative insolent manner (the two fore paws, genitalia, gall and grease are taken from the abdominal cavity for bear fat; the other internal organs have been scattered around and thrown in the river) and in a locality related with nature protection and protected species,

aimed at the development of eco-tourism.

The inspection performed found out also traces of a baby bear or bears. Their fate remains unknown. Usually they would be subjected to slow death in nature or even to a slower one in a private collection. It is not a rare case that young bears are raised for unlawful shooting, the award founders comment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- ⇒ Dnevnik daily: "Juridical trap "safeguards" the construction sites in Strandzha Mountains": <http://forthenature.org/media/1066/>.
- ⇒ horemag.bg: Private investors will build up a winter complex in the area of Kom Peak. There is a general construction plan for the winter complex - over 20 km of ski runs will be constructed, as well as 6 lifts, and many accommodation facilities - over 5 000 beds: <http://forthenature.org/media/1063/>.
- ⇒ A new villa village near Karadere is being planned– our disposable information on the issue you can see at: <http://forthenature.org/news/1142/>.
- ⇒ The Bojurets Golf Complex or how Bulgaria conserves the protected species and unique plant communities in Kavarna Municipality: <http://forthenature.org/news/1135/>.
- ⇒ news.bg: 200 protected bats died because of a mistake of the Shoumen Water and Sewage Company: <http://forthenature.org/media/1056/>.
- ⇒ horemag.bg: artificial beach and reefs will be constructed in Pomorie: <http://forthenature.org/media/1062/>.

AND A FEW MORE PLEASANT NEWS:

- ⇒ The Commission on the designation of "Yulievaska Koriya" Protected Site voted unanimously FOR this protected site: <http://forthenature.org/news/1116/>. "Yulievaska Koriya" is located near the well-known Toulavska Koriya which is also a protected site. It is a unique forest complex – one of the last conserved eco-systems, with oak edificatory, in the plains of Southern Bulgaria.
- ⇒ The Solidarity Community of Sofia sent an open letter to the running candidates for Sofia mayor: <http://forthenature.org/news/1110/>.
- ⇒ New Report of the UN Environment Programme. Gland, Switzerland: Many economists do not value the wealth of nature in their countries compromising in this way the welfare of millions of people and contributing to the catastrophic loss of animal and plant species: <http://forthenature.org/news/1120/>.
- ⇒ Tree Planting around Konush Dam: <http://forthenature.org/actions/217/>.
- ⇒ The Public prosecutor's Office resumed the penal procedure for gas pollution in the region of Stara Zagora: <http://forthenature.org/news/1140/>.
- ⇒ Public discontent of cyanide technology usage increases. In Kardzhali a discussion took place on the wealth of Bulgarian nature and the challenges for its preservation. <http://forthenature.org/news/1148/> and <http://forthenature.org/gallery/220/>.
- ⇒ The carrying out of such meetings and trainings is possible owing to the voluntary participation of citizens and experts. In case you are interested and willing, please, invite For the Nature Coalition to visit your town or village! <http://forthenature.org/news/1150/>.
- ⇒ THE CAMPAIGN FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT SOME SCHOOLS IN THE CAPITAL IS STARTED: <http://forthenature.org/news/1157/>.

- ⇒ And at the end, in unison with the Christmas spirit and New Year's mood "TREAT" A FRIEND WITH A FRIEND ... or how to be noble and non-standard FOR Christmas: <http://forthenature.org/news/1149/>.

The present Bulletin is the last one for this year and we want it to be more beautiful. That is why we give you as a present our smiles and faith. We shall continue struggling also in the future in the hope that together we can make the coming year better and more beautiful. You never know unless you try.

With love and wishes for harmony and merry festive season, yours, forthenature.org crew!



*The Evil Tooth in Rila.
Photo: Mihail Mihov*