



In this issue:

Carlos Neto de Carvalho elected for the Board Commission of EGN Naturtejo Geopark coordinates the best presence ever in ITB Naturtejo Geopark and its associates with great dynamism in BTL 2ND Meeting of the Educational European Project ESTEAM ... and more!





GEO-stories of our places and people: Peral

Peral extends over seven villages and small settlements over plan vegetable gardens, between deep ravines running to Ocreza river. The valley is carved in metamorphic rocks, rocky, tamed by olive trees climbing the steep slopes. On its right side, between Sarzedinha and Fraga streams, a small terrace arise in the Precambrian shale which has not escaped from Roman gold mining. The small area of tailing piles is the last one developed between both banks of Portas de Almourão. Romans would not have settled up away; in Chão do Trigo Castle the earliest ceramic remains are starting being studied; from the past a report of a treasure with Roman silver coins was found in the area. The small village departs from the surrounding highs by the strong slopes of the stream. To the North, the forest green intensifies on the way to Sarzedinha; bushes replace black soils vegetable gardens to South. Less than 674 people live in this 25,63km2 territory. The nearby transport routes, IC8 and N241 didn't let these villages and places die, but on the other hand do not remove them from the demographic agony they live in. Subsistence agriculture and forestry fill the locals' daily routine. Ocreza River is nearby and gives good fishing for the River Stone Soup and Pickled Barb, local delicacies waiting to be found in a dedicated Festival. The trail path "Gold mines Trail" invites to discover Ocreza River banks, by walking or cycling. Other way to do it is with kayak, as the river has potential to this activity during winter and spring. Silences in Chão do Trigo Castle late afternoon, intensely rockrose aromatic, claim for a tourism exploitation in Peral, for its Nature and endogenous products.

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> The editor Carlos Neto de Carvalho Scientific coordinator

Cover: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES



1 March to 16 April – Pascal Cycle in Idanha-a-Nova applies for safeguard register of UNESCO good practices. "Easter Mysteries" include a set of popular religiosity manifestations connected to the Lenten and Pascal cycle reaching out the 17 Parishes in the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, in Castelo Branco District. "The aim is submitting an application (Easter Mysteries) to the UNESCO preservation list of good practices, among intangible heritage", said Armindo Jacinto, Mayor of the Municipality. He also explained that this application to UNESCO good practices is supported by the Ministry of Culture through the minister Luís Filipe Castro Mendes, who attended the ceremony last month in Idanha-a-Nova.

The mayor said that this popular and religious heritage, its authenticity, uniqueness and preservation, contribute in a significant way to sustainable development of the territory of Idanha-a-Nova.

Easter Mysteries express through gesture simplicity and popular prayers, processions and chants in churches or in the street. More than 200 festivities take place during one and half month all over the region. These events calendar is published every year with Naturtejo Geopark support.

4 March – Music in Centro Cultural Raiano. Once again Naturtejo Geopark supports national music in Idanha-a-Nova, this time with Samuel Úria in Centro Cultural Raiano.

6, 23 and 24 March – Training course to boost Educational Programmes. These three days of practical training course in the field aimed to prepare and boost the Educational Programmes in Naturtejo Geopark in 4 geomonuments and was dedicated to Mariana Vilas Boas (Technician) and Catarina Caria (Intern). Manuela Catana was the trainer. Previously they had theoretical training and later a practical training course presenting several staging points with educational interest in the Fossils Trail, Boulders Trail, Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão and analysed the fossils trunks in the garden of Casa de Artes e Cultura do Tejo. Also were presented and used educational resources to field classes, destined to trainers, students and teachers.



7 to 9 March – Virtual visits to Geopark in InfoTec. The Superior School of Technology of Castelo Branco promoted InfoTec 2017, IT Forum, aiming to offer the students a direct contact with companies as well as publicize the training offer and work within the community. Naturtejo Geopark, represented by the interns Bruno Barata and Tiago Araújo, promoted the projects developed in the territory, in close partnership with EST in the last years.



8 to 12 March – Naturtejo Geopark coordinates ITB participation in Berlin. With great enthusiasm and optimism ITB, in Berlin, the biggest tourism fair in the world started. Naturtejo Geopark, together with other 10 World Geoparks and Messel Pit – World Heritage, promoted Geoparks as tourist sustainable destinations for development. The fair occupies an area of 160.000 m2, being represented 187 countries, with 10.000 exhibitors and expecting 120.000 professional visitors. Highlight to the Press Conference "UNESCO World Geoparks – innovative destinations for sustainable tourism", which took place right after the ITB Opening-Press Conference. The Conference was organized by GGN Association to more than 80 German and foreign journalists. The German Geoparks also organized a regional press conference.

In the UNESCO Geoparks exhibition stand, all the Geoparks made contact with tour operators and general public. Highlight to the presentation of Dr. Nikolas Zouros, President of Global Geoparks Network Association, in the Pow-Wow, presenting Geoparks as innovative and creative destinations. Among other leading figures, emphasis to German state representatives, Naturtejo Geopark received the Portuguese State Secretary for Tourism, the President of Tourism of Portugal, the Regional Director of Environment and Tourism in Azores and the responsible for Sustainable Tourism in ITB.



9 to 10 March – Educational Programme between Fossils and Granites. 85 students from the 7th grade, from School Cidade de Castelo Branco, accompanied by six teachers, and 50 more from School Faria de Vasconcelos, accompanied by six teachers, participated in this activity. The field trip happened within the scope of the discipline of Natural Sciences. The activity allows the students to learn and review school concepts, in the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, while walking by Fossils Trail. Next the students visited the granitic Inselberg of Monsanto through the Boulders Trail. The trainers were Manuela Catana and Mariana Vilas Boas.



10 March – 4th session of the training course for teachers "Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO World Geopark as educational resource". The fourth and last session of this training course took place in Nuno Álvares Secondary School (headquarters of CFAE). 29 teachers presented the educational resources drawn in group. 12 educational resources were submitted covering the Natural, Historical and Cultural Heritage in Naturtejo Geopark. The final balance is positive, from the perspective of both trainers and trainees. The trainers for this activity were Manuela Catana and José Brilha,, professor from the University of Minho.

10 March – Naturtejo Geopark participates in the Exhibition of UNESCO World Geoparks within the XII Young Scientists Conference. Catarina Caria promoted the Educational Programmes of Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark and its territory, in the UNESCO World Geoparks exhibition which took place within the conference arranged by the Earth Science Department of Faculty of Science and Technology in Coimbra University. 175 students, from 13 schools participated in the conference with 32 assignments. One of the oral presentations was made by students from a school located in the Geopark territory "The importance of Ichnofossils from Penha Garcia". The students were Guilherme Antunes, Francisco Bonacho, Daniela Mendes and Maria Torres, from the School Group Amato Lusitano, from Castelo Branco.



12 March - Opening of the new Trail "Discovery the Stream" in Oleiros. "Discovery the Stream", in Oleiros, is a trail with 2,5km, in the margin of Oleiros Stream, between Ponte Grande da Torna and the River Beach of Açude do Pinto. The trail shows the river ecosystem, rural buildings (as bridges, dams), the Callum wine, gold mining memories, the iconic Priest António de Andrade, among other Oleiros local features. More than 150 people participated in this Trail. 12 interpretative panels were presented. The interpretation was held by Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Scientific Coordinator of Naturtejo Geopark, who "captivates the audience, approaching aspects as riparian ecosystem, human intervention in rural constructions as bridges, dams, waterways or fluvial beaches and the intangible memories and experiences field". The 12 panels have in common a guotation from the Bishop of Angra, extracted from "Memories of Oleiros Village", 1881, about each one thematic. In the end the participants restored energies with a small meal, including Callum Wine and an invigorating yoga class, offered by Sara Nunes. This last activity took place in the leisure space of the Campsite followed by a workshop "Between Rocks and pebbles", held by Filomena Matias. Besides the panels, a 3D map is also being produced, with the same graphic and illustration, which will support the Trail users. "Discovery the Stream" was the first of several actions planned to "promote the conservation and enhancement of the trail". The Municipality of Oleiros thanks the owners of the fields near the stream for their comprehension in the opening of trails for public and collaboration, crucial to this activity's success.



13 to 15 March – INTERREG Danube Geotour Project starts in Slovenia. Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark, in Slovenia, hosts the first INTERREG Danube Geotour meeting. This project, with partners from several Geoparks, from Romania, Czechs Republic, Austria, Hungary, Croatia and Slovenia, also includes an aspiring Geopark in Serbia and aims to develop innovative tools involving interpretation and tourist promotion. The meeting started with a public event presenting the project with several specialists from the project. Carlos Neto de Carvalho participated in the meeting and visited Idrija Geopark and its touristic offer and mining heritage connected to exploration of mercury.

14 to 16 March – Geopark on VII Engineering Week. Naturtejo Geopark participated in the "VII Engineering Week", in the Superior School of Technology of Castelo Branco, aiming to promote interaction between students, investigators, companies and professionals. Bruno Barata and Tiago Araújo, trainees in Naturtejo, presented their projects developed in cooperation with Naturtejo Geopark.



15 to 19 March – Naturtejo Geopark and Associates in BTL. BTL was once again an enormous success and surpassed last year's number of exhibitors, professionals and touristic offer. In all, 1450 exhibitors received 78.001 visitors including 37.888 professionals and 40.113 general public.

Naturtejo Geopark, UNESCO Global Geopark had its own location, in a large stand with a very modern design, betting in an innovative concept to feel the territory, with textures, forms, colours, scents and experiences, inviting the visitor to come in and interact in the exhibition area.

In the days dedicated to professionals, the great potential of this unique territory, internationally acclaimed, was promoted as well as the resources diversity and its infrastructures, and established new contacts and partnerships. Representatives from Idanha-a-Nova, Penamacor, Oleiros, Proença-a-Nova and Vila Velha de Ródão attended, as well as several guests, associates, partners and students.

BTL is a privileged place to show Naturtejo Geopark touristic products to general public, with lots of animation, games and contests, promotional gifts and vouchers to experience this UNESCO territory, and the contagious enthusiasm of our mascot Judite, the Trilobite. The vast program included also wine and food tasting, events promoting, musical moments and presentation of the Naturtejo Geopark Cultural Agenda (January to June 2017). There were also Geoproducts from Naturtejo Geopark, as Geowine Súbito, Aromas do Valado, biscuits and jams from Geocakes, geoliqueurs Acha Doce, handicraft from Vónô and the latest certified Geoproducts organic wine from Herdade do Escrivão and olive oil from Rodoliv.

Within the cooperation between the Guide of the Portuguese Geological and Mines Sites was presented the Exhibition "Naturtejo Geopark: the Rock that Unites Us", held in Grutas da Moeda (S. Mamede) between 8th April and 29th October, inviting all visitors to discover Naturtejo Geopark, in the year of the Centenary of Apparitions in Fatima, expecting 7 million visitors in Fátima.

Because 2017 is the Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, Naturtejo Geopark aims to strengthen its promotion as touristic quality destination, betting in innovation and differentiation, highlighting several events as conferences, thematic tours, exhibitions and more activities.



20 March – Class about Nature Tourism in Naturtejo Geopark. Professional School Agostinho Roseta, held a class "Nature Tourism in Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark", for 20 students from the 1st year in Tourism Technical Course and one teacher, within the Geography subject. This class explained students about Naturtejo Geopark territory, its natural and historical-cultural heritage, its geo touristic potential and some concepts discussed in the field trip held later. The trainer was Manuela Catana.

21 March – International Forest Day: Planting 50 cork trees in Penamacor. Pre-School and 1st grade students from the Municipality of Penamacor, supported by Naturtejo Geopark, planted 50 cork trees in the municipal wood.

21 March – Franco Abstract Production in Centro Cultural Raiano. Celebrating the 20th anniversary of Naturtejo Geopark's mother house, Centro Cultural Raiano hosts the artist's work, supported by Naturtejo Geopark.



23 to 24 March – In the 39th Meeting of European Geoparks Network Carlos Neto de Carvalho is elected to the Board. The 39th Meeting of European Geoparks Network took place in Ireland, in the Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark. The governing bodies for 2017-2018 were elected during this meeting. Carlos Neto de Carvalho, scientific coordinator of Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark, co-founder and coordinator of the geopark project in Beira Baixa since 2004, was elected to the Advisory Committee, as result for 10 years of hard work for the region and representing it in the Global Geoparks Network. With the approval of the Geosciences and Geoparks Program by UNESCO, Geoparks gained higher status and international recognition, together with World Heritage and Biosphere Reserves. However, the main difference between Geoparks and other UNESCO programmes is Geoparks are triggered by local initiative, aiming to reinforce local identity in an increasingly globalised world. Geoparks intend to contribute to the territory sustainable development through a bet in a local diverse and dynamic economy, as tourism, industries connected to Science and Technology, creative industries and education to citizenship. Territorial enhancement is based on Geological Heritage internationally recognized and testifies key episodes of Earth's History.



24 to 26 March – Japanese tour operator in Touristic Program in Geopark. Spanish tour operator "Mikamitravel" brought 12 Japanese to visit Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha, stayed in Hotel Fonte Santa and were guided by Rui Nunes. To Japanese, Monsanto is one of the most beautiful villages in Europe. Naturtejo Geopark hosted another group delighted by Monsanto Boulders and the village authenticity.



24 March – Naturtejo Geopark in Centro Documental Raiano opening. Naturtejo Geopark participated in the opening of Centro Documental Raiano, in Idanha-a-Nova, a place dedicated to Environmental and Alternative Resources, in environment, ecology, natural health, organic agriculture, botanic, spirituality, among other thematics. Centro Documental Raiano will make available more than 11000 books, 230 magazines collections and thousands classified documents about more than 600 thematic connected to natural medicine and organic agriculture, including information about Naturtejo Geopark.

Organic producers as Geoproducts Aromas do Valado and Meat Geo do Prado Nature Fields attended the event. The Superior School ESGIN-IPCB presented a menu, with the best organic production of the region, mainly Meat Geo do Prado and other flavours. Also attend the Environment Minister João Pedro Matos Fernandes, who highlighted the work developed in the territory in the sphere of green economy. Representing the Geopark was Armindo Jacinto, the President, and Joana Rodrigues and Jorge Costa.



25 March – XIV Portuguese-Spanish Canoeing Meeting in Erges border. This event, organized by the Castelo Branco Canoeing Association and Municipality of Zarza la Mayor, brought hundreds of participants, beginners and professionals, from both Portugal and Spain. The theme is the landscape of one of the last wild rivers, the Erges. Kayaks left Termas de Monfortinho to discover natural beauties and adrenaline from rapids that grow to Salvaterra do Extremo. At the end all participants had a small meal near the river, at the arrival zone. decorreu o tradicional picnic no vau da Idanha, à beira-rio, na zona de chegada dos canoístas.



25 March – Educational Tour by Fossils Trail. João Geraldes accompanied 23 students from a French Senior University and visited the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. This program was requested by Pinhal Tour Agency.

25 March – Beiras Theatre in Centro Cultural Raiano. Beiras theatre group performed "Street of Joy" in Centro Cultural Raiano, with Naturtejo Geopark support.



27 to 28 March – ESTEAM Meeting in Naturtejo Geopark

27 to 28 March – ESTEAM Meeting in Naturtejo Geopark. The 2nd ESTEAM Meeting, from the European Project for Education in Natural Sciences and co-financed by ERASMUS+ Programme, took place in Centro Cultural Raiano in Idanha-a-Nova. This meeting was destined to technicians from the 3 Geoparks involved in the project, Magma Geopark (Norway), Idrija Geopark (Slovenia) and Naturtejo Geopark (Portugal), to Schoolteachers in Naturtejo Geopark (School Group José Silvestre Ribeiro in Idanha-a-Nova) and Idrija Geopark and to a TIC Company. The 12 participants had several work meetings about the Project in CCR, field trips to Penha Garcia and Monsanto and also a visit to School EB 2,3/S José Silvestre Ribeiro, in Idanha-a-Nova. Manuela Catana and Carlos Neto de Carvalho represented Naturtejo Geopark.

30 March – Educational programme in Vila Velha de Ródão. 40 students from the Technical Course of Tourism of the Professional School Agostinho Roseta had a boat tour across Tejo were they could observe Foz do Enxarrique Terace, pass through Portas de Ródão, and try a canoeing activity, near the pier. Students were accompanied by two teachers and the trainer was João Geraldes.

31 March – Fossils and Boulders Trail in Idanha-a-Nova. 54 students of the 11th grade from a School in Fundão participated in these activities. First made the Fossils Trail in Penha Garcia, where learned about Trilobite Ichnofossils, the Cruziana, and could remember some concepts learned at school. Later they visited Monsanto Inselberg and made the Boulders Trail. Students were accompanied by 4 teachers and the trainers from Naturtejo Geopark were Mariana Vilas Boas and João Geraldes.

31 March – Invited by Moeda Caves, Geopark shows its educational offer in Futuralia Manuela Catana represented Naturtejo Geopark in "Futuralia" – Education Fair, to publicize Educational Programmes in Naturtejo Geopark. This participation took place within the partnership between Naturtejo EIM and Moeda Caves. Both institutions have a two days field trip called "A trip around Rock Cycle in the Centre of Portugal". Naturtejo Geopark was present together with Moeda Caves. FUTURALIA 2017 is the biggest educational, training and employability fair in Portugal, held in FIL in Lisbon.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

TV & Radio

14 March (Rádio Condestável) – "Discovery the Stream" involved 150 people 29 March (Rádio Cova da Beira) – Naturtejo Geopark in BTL

Newspapers & www

1 March (Gazeta do Interior) – Idanha presents in Biofach

2 March (Reconquista) – International Conference on Sustainable Tourism – Number of tourists is increasing

8 March (Gazeta do Interior) – EST receives Engineering Week

12 March (Reconquista) - BTL – Central Region promoted in Lisbon

14 March (Diário Digital de Castelo Branco) – Discover the Stream in Oleiros started Sunday and promises to continue

16 March (Diário Digital de Castelo Branco) – Oleiros attend BTL

22 March (Gazeta do Interior) – Penamacor attend BTL

22 March (Gazeta do Interior) – Idanha submit 27 applications for 7 Wonders of Portugal -Villages

22 March (Povo da Beira) – Easter Mysteries from Idanha-a-Nova apply for UNESCO

22 March (Povo da Beira) – Initiative "It costs nothing to visit Proença-a-Nova" in BTL

22 March (Gazeta do Interior) – Penamacor hosts International Conference on Sustainable Tourism

29 March (Gazeta do Interior) – V Asparagus, Truffles and Mushrooms Festival

31 March (Beiranews) – Naturtejo Geopark in BTL 2017-10-12



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- Catana, A. – Pascal Mysteries in Idanha 2017. Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, 46 pp. (in portuguese)

- Circuits Live Science. Live Science, 404 pp.

- Franco Obra Abstracta. Exhibition Cathalogue, Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova (in portuguese)

- Flyer of interpretative path "Discovery the Stream". Municipality of Oleiros (in portuguese)

























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Geoparks: Geology with human face



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